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THE LABOUR PARLIAMENT.

It has been represented to that portion of the working classes who have struck for higher wages, that a "Labour Parliament," to discuss the rights of working men and the "tyranny of capital," would be useful at the present moment. A Labour Parliament, or convention of working men is, therefore, to be summoned forthwith. The public has not yet been informed of how many members this parliament is to be composed, where it is to assemble, or how long it is to sit. The project, we believe, did not originate with the men of "horny hands,"—not with the real labourers and artisans of Great Britain, but with the paid secretaries or other officials who counsel and organise strikes, who collect the weekly sixpences and shillings of men in full employ in support of the "turn-outs;" and who distribute in town and city, on Saturday nights, the wretched pittances on which the operatives must starve until the next dole is due to them, or until it pleases them to resume their former labours. There seems no immediate prospect of a return to reason on the part of the many thousand men who are now living in this unsatisfactory manner. More unwise than the dog in the fable, they have not only thrown away the substance

in grasping at the shadow, but they cling to the idea that the shadow is a reality. It is probable that many of them have learned from bitter experience the injury they have done themselves and their families, and that they would gladly exchange their present state of idleness and want for the full work and high wages which they enjoyed a few months ago. But the great majority have been so long accustomed to act in concert, to yield obedience to their unions and committees, and to calculate upon strikes as possible contingencies, that the voice of reason appeals to them in vain. Experience fails to teach them as a body those lessons which they may have learned as individuals. As an expedient, therefore, for prolonging the struggle upon which they have entered, the "Labour Parliament" will doubtless last its little day. But the inevitable result will not be altered. Ignorant and violent speeches may keep up a fading enthusiasm for a short time longer; but the wintry cold, the fireless grate, the empty cupboard, the imploring looks of wife and children, and the growing certainty that the masters will not and cannot yield—all these acting together will deprive the oratory of their leaders of the power to persuade them that no bread is better than half a loaf, or that charity wrung from their fellows is pleasanter to live upon than their own honest earnings. There are limits to

the sixpences and shillings of artisans who have wives and families of their own to support; even were there no limit to the endurance and self-denial of the men who are waging the present contest. But neither wars, nor lawsuits, nor strikes, can be carried on without cash. Already there has been a great diminution in the weekly subscriptions, and, ere many weeks, the little will grow less. Yet, there is something so like heroism in the conduct of the men who, in support of a principle which they deem to be just, have voluntarily reduced themselves to poverty, if not to starvation; that, misguided as they are, it is impossible to speak of them without respect. They assert what they believe to be the right of free men and the dignity of labour; and, if they make a mistake on a question of social and political economy, the fault lies not in the badness of their hearts, but in the incompleteness or the errors of their education. We trust, therefore, that the "Labour Parliament" will really assemble, and that all which can be urged on behalf of the claims of labouring men, to fix their own rate of wages, will be duly set forth by their best speakers, and fully reported in the newspapers. Publicity and the consequent discussion of the principle at issue will not fail to make some converts among the clearest headed of such artisans as may attend the convention, or read of its proceedings. As in



IMPERIAL HUNT IN THE FOREST OF FONTAINEBLEAU.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

all previous cases, the Corn-laws not excepted, one convert will make many; and, in due time, it may be hoped that a little leaven will leaven the whole lump. It took time and pains, and more heart-burnings to enlighten a large portion of the upper classes on the subject of Protection, and the impolicy of artificially enhancing the price of bread; and we will not do the working classes the injustice to suppose that, on a question affecting the industry by which they subsist, they will be less amenable to reason than the lords and squires, who were converted on the subject of the Corn-laws.

In the meantime, it is curious to see how pertinaciously the leaders of the movement employ words without meaning; in what a vicious circle of argument they run; and how, in asserting capital to be the natural enemy of labour, they direct their efforts to become capitalists themselves. At the meeting held in Manchester, in which it was declared imperatively necessary that a "Labour Parliament" should be summoned, it was resolved, that "the time had arrived when a united and mass-movement of the working classes, based on a national organisation, and guided by one directing body, could alone ensure adequate support to the men now looked out of employment and on strike; and enable working men in future to emancipate labour from the thralldom of capital." It was also resolved that the "Labour Parliament," consisting of delegates elected by the working men of each town, should meet as soon as possible, and devote its energies to the discovery of means by which labour "might become independent, self-supporting, and remunerative, without the necessity of strikes."

We much doubt whether the persons who drew up the resolution, and employed the fine phrase "the thralldom and tyranny of capital" ever asked themselves what it meant. In one sense the phrase may be considered correct. A tyrant is a master, and thralldom is a state of subjection; and there can be no dispute that capital is the master of labour, and that labour is in servitude or subjection to the capital which pays it. But, in this sense, the law of gravitation is a tyranny, and we all of us exist in a state of thralldom to it. The same phrase might be used to designate arithmetic or mathematics, which are as great tyrants as any we know. To such tyrannies and thralldoms men and nature are bound to submit. Capital is a power that acts in accordance with recognised and easily discoverable principle. Ignorant or unthinking men may rail against it, and call it tyranny, if they will; but, until they can prove that capital is anything more than the savings of past labour, or until they can provide any other means for the reward of living labourers than that accumulated fund, they but rail against physical laws, and set themselves in fruitless and foolish opposition to nature and to necessity. The promoters of the "Labour Parliament" in seeking to devise a scheme by which labour may be rendered self-supporting and remunerative, express a desire to become the thing which they condemn. Unless they make themselves capitalists, their scheme—however promising it may appear—can neither be self-supporting nor remunerative. But, while railing against capital, and expressing their determination to become capitalists, all in one breath, they lose sight of the real grievance which operates injuriously against them, and against all working men in this country. What they want is the right or the power to become capitalists themselves—the right of association for trading and manufacturing purposes. The evil lies in the present state of the law of partnership. Were that altered, so as to admit the right of association with limited responsibility, working men, when dissatisfied with the rate of wages offered them by their employers, might set up in business for themselves, and see whether they could earn more as masters and partners than they did as servants and labourers. Or, if their employer had justice on his side in refusing to accede to their demands, he might admit them to a share in the business, and prove to them by his books—without dictation from extraneous and mischievous unions and secretaries—that a higher rate of wages would annul profits, and bring the whole concern to a stand-still. If the "Labour Parliament" will devote its attention to that part of the subject, it may effect some good; but if it do nothing more than rail at the thralldom of capital, it will but render itself ridiculous, and throw away its opportunities.

LOUIS NAPOLEON'S HUNTING PARTIES AT FONTAINEBLEAU.

THE sport of hunting has considerably declined in France since the end of the eighteenth century. After the Revolution, Napoleon I. re-established the hunting arrangements of the ancient monarchy. Louis XVIII., although deprived of the pleasures of the chase by his infirmities, nevertheless showed much solicitude for the sport of hunting, which was considered as one of the elements of Royal luxury. His successor, Charles X., displayed in these sports the tastes and the researches of a Prince who had lived in the best days of the Monarchy. Under Louis Philippe, who had the quiet habits of a bourgeois, the amusements of the chase held a very small place in the Royal solitudes. As for the present Emperor, the chase offers him a pastime consonant with the ardour of his character and the vigour of his constitution. The important organisation that he has given to the service of the chase attests his fondness for this kind of sport; for the maintenance of which he has allotted an annual expenditure of 400,000 francs for the appointments of the officers of hunting, and the supply and maintenance of the horses, dogs, implements, &c. There has not yet been time to develop the arrangements desired by the Emperor. The service at present is not composed of more than 56 blood horses, and 113 dogs, of the best English breed.

The number of officers and huntsmen (prickers, trackers, and valets de chien) is about the same as under Charles X. The Imperial hunting residences are reduced to three—St Germain, Fontainebleau, and Compiègne. Under Charles X. these residences were six in number, besides sixty places for shooting, with all the necessary buildings. General Magnan is Grand Huntsman—a title held, under Charles X., by the Dauphin, the son of the King. M. Edgar Ney is the Chief Huntsman, in which capacity he is charged with all the details of the chase.

The last hunts which took place at Fontainebleau (during the last fortnight in November) were extremely brilliant. Only sixty persons received the "button"—a custom which it is necessary to explain. According to the rules of the Royal hunt, the persons summoned to follow the chase must wear a suitable hunting costume. That adopted by the Emperor is of the time of Louis XV., with the three-cornered hat, relieved by a border of gold lace. The coat (of green cloth) and the waistcoat are both ornamented with gold lace and silver buttons, in the centre of which, in relief, is a stag, in gold. The receipt of a garniture of these buttons (which is called "giving the button") constitutes an invitation, and confers the right of assisting at all Imperial hunting parties. The costume of the ladies consists of the Amazon riding-habit, also of green cloth, and the hat ornamented with gold lace. The buttons are of the same model as those of the men, but smaller. Among the personages to whom the silver buttons have been sent, we may mention—His Imperial Highness the Prince Napoleon, Prince Lucien Murat, the Princess Mathilde, the Grand Duchess Stephanie of Baden, Lord and Lady Cowley, Mr. and

Madame de Pierris, le Comte Silveira, Madame Thayer, MM. Nathan and James Rothschild, M. de Nieuwerkerke, M. de Latour-Maubourg. The painters Horace Vernet and Gudin have also followed the chase. The ministers and dignitaries of the household of the Emperor received private invitations, and were received, with their suites, in the Palace of Fontainebleau, which is provided with no less than 1200 beds!

Only the officers of the Imperial hunt have the privilege of mounting the horses belonging to the Emperor's stables. Three relays of horses have been provided for the Emperor, the Empress, and the huntsmen. Lord and Lady Cowley, the Princess Mathilde, and the Grand Duchess of Baden, followed the chase in carriages. The hunting expeditions—which have been rendered more difficult for the cavaliers, in consequence of the unevenness of ground in the forest of Fontainebleau—have shown to great advantage the rare skill in horsemanship of the Imperial huntsmen. Only one accident has happened, and that has not been attended by grave consequences—namely, Madame Thayer's fall from her horse. The Emperor has displayed brilliant qualities, both as *écuyer* and huntsman. As for the Empress, she has worthily sustained the reputation which she has already acquired in the sport. Her Majesty is spoken of as very skilful in the use of fire-arms. Her weapon in the chase is a single-barrelled carbine, and the skill with which she avails herself of it equals, if it does not exceed, that of the most adroit huntsman. She was seen recently at a shooting party at Versailles, to bring down a wild duck from a very great height.

Some brilliant fêtes have marked the progress of the Imperial hunts. The Palace of Fontainebleau (usually a desert, and environed with melancholy *souvenirs* of the kings of France, who succeeded to it from the reign of Charles VII. down to Louis Philippe—to which latter monarch we owe the repairs and extensive restorations of the château) Fontainebleau has latterly assumed an entirely new air of animation. The pleasures of the chase have been varied by splendid receptions, reviews, and, lastly, by a superb carousal given by the Sixth Hussars. As at all the fêtes given by the Emperor, the military formed the majority of the guests at Fontainebleau.

The hunting equipages of the Emperor are about to be considerably augmented. Orders for fresh horses and dogs have been sent to England. The French dogs, which used to form a part of the kennel, have been sent away, and only English dogs are to be used in future. Those which have run at Fontainebleau came from the pack of Mr. P—, a gentleman of large property in the United Kingdom, and an intimate friend of the Emperor's.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

The subject of all conversation continues to be, what they call here the fusion, that is to say the union between the two branches of the house of Bourbon. Nothing else is talked of in the *salons* of Paris, the provinces, and amongst the foreigners. "What do you think of the fusion?" Such is the interpellation which pursues you everywhere. You answer, in order to avoid a question importunate, perhaps indiscreet, "I do not think about it." "Ah, that is impossible," answer they; "you must think something about it, and if you do not give your opinion it is because you do not choose to do so. How can you speak of it with such indifference?" It is, nevertheless, a great event; for the Orleanists and Legitimists will no longer have a pretext for not rallying; and the limited number of those who have had the weakness to attach themselves to the Empire, will detach themselves as soon as possible: then will come the fall caused by desertion. Do you not see this—that here is the throne of Louis Napoleon undermined without its being possible for him to prevent it? Do you not see that France is placed between a future Restoration or a new revolution? Under the empire of this fear, who will think of giving balls or fêtes, or having *monteaux de cour* for the reception of the 1st January? And, supposing, that the Republic, which was tripped up, recovers its feet?

What is certain, incontestable, uncontested, is that the *fond* of these conversations is gloomy, and that there hangs over head a thick cloud of dark presentiments. The official faces are mournful, the *administrations publiques* are uneasy. The winter has begun ill. In the provinces bread is very dear, and work has begun to be scarce. To what can this be attributed? No one can blame Liberty, for it no longer exists. Can it be attributed to Authority, which interferes with everything, everywhere? What remains now to conjure the storm which is forming. "The world belongs to the apathetic," said, in 1849, Louis Napoleon, President of the Republic; and so it does till the moment when it escapes them. Apathy! apathy! you will have been what the shade is to the light, error to truth—that is to say, the means of rendering the light more brilliant, the truth more evident.

Anxiety hovers over not only the *salons*, but it enters the shops, where complaints are loud; and even in the green-room of the theatres, where it comes out in all the dialogues. Thus, last Monday, at the brilliant representation of the drama "Mauprat," by George Sand, people met each other, asking, not "What do you think of the piece?" but asking "How will all this end? how will the winter pass? how avoid a war in the spring? England and France, will they continue united against Russia and Austria? will Lord Aberdeen yield his place to Lord Palmerston? Silver disappears and gold remains—what is to be done to retain the silver—one cannot pay in gold for a pair of gloves, or a drive in a hackney coach? As the difficulties are greater, men appear less. The contrary is to be desired—great men, and small difficulties."

The frost has come, and interrupted the building works; but it has not driven away the cholera, which continues its ravages.

The Italian Opera languishes; it seems doubtful whether the efforts and sacrifices made will succeed in raising it from the tomb where it was buried alive the 24th of February, 1848.

Mlle. Rachel has dated, not a decree from Moscow, but from St. Petersburg, her resignation of the Théâtre Français. She renounces the French scene. From Russia she will go to the United States, to secure the sum of 25000 a year, which she is anxious to gain; she then will come and spend it in Paris, where she will, not as an applauded artiste, but as a retired *grand dame*, open to a select few her luxurious *petite maison*. Who will replace her at the Théâtre Français? Who has replaced Talma? Who has replaced Chateaubriand or Balzac? Who will replace Lamartine, Victor Hugo, Eugene Sue, Alexandre Dumas, George Sand, Mlle. Emile de Girardin?

In France, illustrious people disappear and none come in their places; science progresses, but literature and art are on the decline.

The Emperor and Empress visited the Palaces of Trianon and Versailles on Monday, and returned to the Tuileries in the evening at six o'clock.

The French Government is proceeding in the work of strengthening its navy with great expedition. Several new vessels were launched last week.

It is believed that M. J. de Rothschild has concluded a new loan, amounting to six or eight millions sterling.

The steady progress of the revenue in the face of a bad harvest and the prospect of war, is a curious as well as cheering fact.

An Imperial decree extends the period to which vessels laden with grain, flour, rice, potatoes, and dried vegetables, are exempted from the payment of navigation dues, from the 31st December to 31st July next.

The Duke of Belluno, Senator, died in Paris last week.

The syndics of the bakers are now paying them the indemnity due to them for the bread sold during the last fifteen days of October, at the rate commanded by the Government. The amount payable is 619,000f. on a consumption of 7,737,500 kilogrammes of bread.

The Emperor has, by an Imperial decree, dated 16th November last, awarded a medal of honour of the first class to Captain Rennie, of the East India Company's ship *Zenobia*, who saved the French brig *Sylphe*, of Bordeaux, from great danger, and towed her into the port of Akaby.

The Minister of Marine has received despatches from the Commodore Commanding the French naval forces on the western coast of Africa,

dated 25th October last, announcing the complete success of the expedition sent against the hostile tribes in the neighbourhood of the French settlement of Grand Bassam, in the month of September last. The submission of all the tribes of Lake Ebré and the river Akba, and of the villages of Grand Bassam, are now complete. Fines, amounting altogether to 160 head of cattle and 13 ounces of gold were imposed on the hostile savages, and hostages were further given as pledges for future tranquillity. A new French post has been established at Dabou.

THE WAR BETWEEN RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

A new project of settlement now engages the attention of the Allied Powers, which affords another chance of arranging the Turkish question without the risk of a general war. It was at first stated that positive and definite engagements had been agreed to by the four mediating Powers, pledging them to maintain the existing territorial arrangements of Europe, and to recommend fresh preliminaries of peace in the East. It has since been stated that the rumour that an alliance had been formed between the four Powers is incorrect. A collective note has been drawn up, but no mutual pledge given to enforce its acceptance. The propositions alluded to, which constitute the latest effort of this protracted negotiation, have originated with the British and French Governments, and not with the Cabinet of Vienna; although they have been readily and unreservedly adopted by both the German Courts. On Friday in last week the Prussian Government signified to its Ministers in London and Paris that it was prepared to co-operate with the Western Powers on the basis proposed. On the following day the Austrian Government gave its assent, and the collective note was then forwarded to the Porte. Without attempting to dictate conditions to the Porte, the Turkish Government will be called upon to name the terms on which it is prepared to enter upon a negotiation for peace. It is, of course, impossible that conditions proposed by England and France could embrace anything short of the retreat of Russia from the Principalities. With respect to any stipulations regarding the protection of Christians in the dominions of the Sultan, it is supposed that they cannot henceforth be included in any separate convention, but must be regulated by the public treaties of the Christian States with the Porte. The matter now awaits the answer to be received from Constantinople. Should Turkey respond to the invitation, and propose such terms as the allies may deem reasonable and equitable; Russia will be invited to enter into negotiations on the basis so laid down; and, in the event of the Czar's acquiescence, a Congress will probably be convened, in order to frame a definitive treaty of peace. In any contingency, however—whether the proposed Congress be or be not found practicable—the explicit declaration of France, England, Austria, and Prussia, is a guarantee to Europe that existing territorial arrangements shall remain unaltered, and that the balance of power shall be maintained intact.

Advices from Constantinople of the 24th ult. state that a three months' armistice, demanded by England, has been refused by the Turkish Ministers; and that, in consequence, Lord Stratford, with a view to obtain the consent which the Turkish Ministers had refused, had an audience of the Sultan, which lasted five hours. An extraordinary Council of Ministers was convened in consequence.

A despatch from Bucharest, dated Dec. 3, says:—

There is an undisturbed cessation of hostilities. Deep snow is on the mountains. The frozen ground in the plain has prevented the Turks completing the constructions they had commenced at Turnul. General Osten-Sacken is expected on the 12th December on the Danube. The river is frozen.

The Turks remain in their strongly-entrenched position, about twelve miles distant from Kalafat, in the direction of Krajova. It would seem that strong divisions of the two armies must have confronted each other at Kalafat and Krajova ever since the close of October, whereas, excepting some accidental skirmishing at the first passage of the river, we have heard of no serious encounters between the Russians and Turks in this quarter. Great improvements are still being made by the Turks in the fortifications of Kalafat, and an incredible activity is displayed in the construction of redoubts. The Turks have planted 100 guns behind the works of earth in their entrenched camp on the road to Krajova. Up to the 30th November the Russians in Krajova had shown no signs of an intention to advance. A military arrangement on the part of the Turks at Kalafat led to the report of their having been recalled. The whole corps is relieved every forty-eight hours from Widdin. The Russian General Fishback, at Krajova, has been receiving reinforcements from Bucharest; and his force, which when the Turks landed at Kalafat, was only 6000 men, is now between 12,000 and 13,000 men. Letters from Krajova, of the 30th ult., state that it was thought that General Fishback had been ordered to fall back upon Bucharest, where Prince Gortschakoff is concentrating the whole of his troops, with the front of his army turned towards Silistria. The general opinion among military men is, that Prince Gortschakoff will find it no easy matter to dislodge the Turks from their strong position at Kalafat.

There have been renewed engagements at Giurgevo. This, it will be remembered, is the fort opposite that of Rustchuk, and the only point at which the Turks, at the opening of the campaign, failed to accomplish the passage of the Danube. They never, however, entirely relinquished the attempt, but maintained themselves for some time on an island in the stream, half-way between the two forts. This position the Russians repeatedly and at last successfully attacked; but, on the 21st ult., the Turks recovered the island and held it, in spite of two distinct assaults, until the 24th, when the Russians once more got possession of it. The desperate fighting at this point indicates that both parties foresee events in which its importance would be extreme. On the 26th the Turks constructed a bridge between Rustchuk and the Island of Mokan. On the 26th, 27th, and 28th of November, the Turks continued to make feigned attacks on the island of Mokan, but retreated as soon as the Russian fire opened. The island of Mokan was the object of daily contests, and it appeared that the Turks were resolved to take it at any price.

About 420 of the Russians who were wounded at Oltienitz had died. Among them were about fifteen officers and three colonels. The Russian general who was killed in that battle was a Baron Rosen.

The report that the Turks are in want of provisions is false. A vast quantity of supplies of all kinds, received from England, is lying at Varna. Omer Pacha has been, since the 15th November, in Rasgrad, to which place reinforcements and supplies are forwarded every week. A great number of foreigners, among whom are many Englishmen and Americans, came with the last reinforcements. Since the commencement of hostilities, the Turks have lost about 4000 men, 1500 of whom were either killed in battle or drowned. The Turks were at Turna, where the Aluta falls into the Danube, opposite Nicopolis, on the 18th. On the 15th, a very sharp affair took place at Turna, in which the Russians were worsted and put to flight. There is a citadel surrounded by a wall either at Turna or on an island close by, and this is in the hands of the Turks. An exchange of prisoners having been talked of, the Russian prisoners had obtained an interview with Omer Pacha, to beg him to keep them, as they could see his soldiers were much better treated than the Russian troops. It is added, that Omer Pacha complied with their request, and has incorporated them in the Turkish Christian regiments now forming.

Moldo-Wallachia has now become a Russian province, and, for the time being, at least, has ceased to be in any way connected with Turkey. The Wallachian troops have moreover received an order to join the Russian army, and take their share in the campaign against the Sultan. There is a rumour of the desertion of 300 Wallachian gendarmes, who were attached to the corps of General Fishback, and who, with horses, weapons, and accoutrements, are said to have gone over to the Turks.

In Moldavia affairs were conducted in the most absolute manner by General Uruoff. The Jews in particular were the victims of his brutality. Some Austrian Jews had to invoke the protection of the Austrian Consul-General. General Uruoff has since been superseded by Prince Gortschakoff.

The two sons of Prince Vogorides, and some other Boyards, were arrested, simply because they refused to supply the Russian army with provisions.

The Russians appear to be intensely unpopular in the Principalities. At Jassy not less than eighteen large houses, belonging to different Boyards, have been converted into hospitals.

The war is carried on in Asia with great energy. Abdi Pacha writes, on Nov. 6, that the Turkish troops having met the Russians, who had crossed the frontier in the neighbourhood of Bajazid, a battle took place, in which the Russians were defeated, and compelled to retreat. Another affair took place some days after, at a distance of two or three hours' march from the fortress of Akiska. The numbers were about equal on both sides, but the Ottoman troops obtained the victory and the Russians fled in disorder, after having experienced considerable loss. On the 24th ult., Ismael Pacha and Schamyl were to make simultaneous attacks on the Russian lines. Selim Pacha, General-in-Chief of the division of Batoum, has advanced on the Russian territory at eleven leagues from Circassia. His intention was to assist the Circassians, who were waiting for a favour-

able moment to rise, and form a *corps d'armée* of 80,000 men. Private letters speak of the "truly enthusiastic zeal" of the Asiatic Turks, who appear in crowds at the conscription offices. Each *Cydet* has to supply 1600 cavalry and 6500 infantry, and this is done with the greatest readiness. The cavalry goes to Erzeroum, and the infantry to Constantinople.

After an inspection of the French fleet, Admiral Hamelin published an order of the day something to this effect:—"The ships of France have not come to the Bosphorus for mere purposes of parade; I am sure then, and I expect, that all and each will be ready to act at the first signal." The official recall of the advertisement relative to the supplies for the French fleet, "between Constantinople and Odessa," has caused some sensation in the Turkish capital. The inhabitants of Constantinople begin to find the presence of inactive allies, who consume 8500 *occas* of meat daily (the *occa* is $\frac{2}{3}$ lb. English), excessively oppressive. The price of provisions has risen enormously.

The recall of Baron Bruck, the Austrian Internuncio at Constantinople, in consequence of a difference with the Porte relative to Serbia, is confirmed. Baron Bruck told Redschid Pacha that the Austrian Government supported the neutrality of the Prince of Serbia; and that she would not be pleased to see the Porte have recourse to means of coercion in order to compel the Prince to take the part of Turkey. Redschid Pacha replied that the Sultan was resolved to compel the Prince to renounce his neutrality, and that orders had been given for that purpose.

A letter from Constantinople gives some details of the survey that has just been made of the mouths of the Danube:—

This survey, which had been called for by foreign commerce, and particularly by several large English houses, has made known that the Sulina, which is the most important of the mouths of the river, is encumbered at this moment by a great number of vessels which had sunk there, and which throw great difficulties in the way of the navigation. The situation of this part of the Danube is the more serious, as, according to treaties, Russia, Austria, and the Porte are bound to keep it clear; and as the last-named Power has made frequent remonstrances on the subject, and faithfully performed her part of the obligations. It results from these facts that foreign merchant-vessels, trading in corn with the ports of Wallachia and Moldavia, meet with great obstacles in their passage.

The Porte has resolved for the present not to accept the offers made for raising a Hungarian and an Italian legion. The Polish legion, however, will be organised at once at Scutari, and then proceed to Kars. The Turkish Government has issued a strict prohibition against the granting of letters of marque.

By advices of the 25th from Cattaro, we learn that encounters have occurred between the Montenegrins and Turks, attended with loss of life on both sides.

There is not much ground for expecting any naval engagements in the Black Sea at present. It is stated that the English, French, Turkish, and Egyptian fleets were all in the Bosphorus. The Turkish squadron, which had returned from the Black Sea, was not again to sail. The Turkish division which had gone to cruise in the Black Sea, returned on the 19th to the Bosphorus, and resumed its position before Buyukderé. It was not again to sail.

We hear from Constantinople that the enthusiasm and patriotism of the Turks increase from day to day. Voluntary contributions are received from all parts of the empire, and Constantinople alone has raised 150,000,000 piasters for the maintenance of the army. The Druses of the Lebanon have offered to send 2000 men; but they demand that the Christians shall be disarmed before they depart. The other Druses display far greater military ardour. The high dignitaries of the Maronites have also offered the assistance of their people.

Gen. Baraguay d'Hilliers, the new French Ambassador to the Porte, arrived at Constantinople on the 16th ult. He was received by the Seraskier on landing with a regiment of cavalry and four battalions. The address of the General to the Sultan on presenting his credentials was as follows:—

Sire—I have the honour of presenting to your Majesty the letters of his Imperial Majesty, my august Sovereign, which accredit me as an ambassador to the Sublime Porte. In the difficult circumstances in which the Ottoman Empire is placed, I am happy to have been selected by the Emperor Napoleon to renew to your Majesty the assurance of his friendship. France is the most ancient and the most disinterested of the allies of the Sublime Porte; her sincerity cannot be called in doubt. France does not fear war. Faithful to the spirit of his mission, declared by the Emperor Napoleon himself, France desires peace; but she desires it durable, loyal, and honourable for herself and her allies. For that object the Emperor Napoleon, in concert with his powerful ally the Queen of Great Britain, has sent his fleet to the East. Confiding in the reiterated assurances of the Cabinet of St. Petersburg, he still hopes that the difference which has arisen between the Sublime Porte and the Court of Russia may be smoothed down; and that this temporary trouble, in bringing forward clearly the question of the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, will only serve to confirm an independence, so precious to all Europe, and so necessary to the maintenance of the peace of the world. The Sultan may be certain that the Emperor Napoleon, who comprehends so well the wants, sentiments, and dignity of France, will afford for that object his support to your Majesty; and I consider myself to be the faithful organ of my august master's will, in giving you this assurance. I seize on this occasion to express to your Imperial Majesty my ardent desire to contribute, with all my efforts, to the maintenance of the old and friendly relations which France has always kept up with the Sublime Porte, and I place at the feet of your Majesty the homage of my profound respect.

The Sultan replied as follows to General Baraguay d'Hilliers:—

I have always relied, and I rely in the present crisis, on the material and moral support of my ancient allies, France and Great Britain. France and the rest of Europe have the right to insist on peace. I, too, desire peace; but only if it can be had without prejudice to my sovereign rights and the independence of Turkey. At present no arrangement is possible without the entire renunciation of the pretensions put forward by Russia, and without the immediate and complete evacuation of the two Principalities, which are part of my empire.

General Baraguay d'Hilliers was accompanied, in addition to his staff and the *personnel* of the embassy, by Vice-Admiral Hamelin, commanding the French squadron, Rear-Admirals Jacquot and Le Barbier de Tinan, and several captains; to all of whom the Sultan evinced the most perfect courtesy and cordiality.

General Baraguay d'Hilliers afterwards conferred with the Turkish Ministers and Lord Stratford. The staff officers who accompanied the French diplomatist have already quitted Constantinople. Colonel Fleury, with his aide-de-camp, is gone to Batoum. Lieutenant-Colonel Lavoix and Messrs. Berton and Houche, officers of engineers, are gone to Schumla and Widdin.

RUSSIA.

The effect produced in Russia, and especially on the mind of the Emperor Nicholas, by the intelligence received during the past month from the frontiers of the Danube and the Caucasus is still imperfectly known to the west of Europe, but the Emperor himself appears to have been alternately irritated and depressed—annoyed by the evident failure of his political schemes and military operations—irresolute in the adoption of measures sufficiently decided to carry on the war on a grand scale, or to conclude a lasting peace. The army in Poland, contrary to the reports which have been current, has not moved, and has received no orders to move; but the process of recruiting is carried on this year in Poland with peculiar violence and barbarity; the number of conscripts required has been increased by several thousands, and persons have been seized even in their own houses and pressed into the Imperial ranks for military service for twenty-five years. If the army of Poland is really intended to move southward, its place must be immediately supplied, and probably the Imperial Guard would advance to the western frontier.

The inglorious commencement of the war, the critical position of the Transcaucasian provinces, the increasing alienation from Russia of all the European Powers, and the scarcity of money, which begins to be felt—are said to produce a very unfavourable effect on the Emperor's mind. At the most critical moment of his reign the confidence which existed between himself and his oldest counsellors, and even his own family, is shaken and impaired. His conduct is wayward, his policy unsettled; and we hear no more of that popular enthusiasm for war in Russia which was said to be urging on the Government to the most violent measures.

The Czar has ordered that forty officers of his Guard shall proceed to Wallachia, and do duty in the various regiments.

The following is the official (Russian) despatch, announcing the Russian successes in the Black Sea:—

The Russian steam-frigate *Wladimir*, cruising in the Black Sea, took the *Bervass Bachri*, an Egyptian war-steamer, of ten guns, after an obstinate resistance. The Russian war-steamer *Bessarabia* took a Turkish steamer, laden with copper, belonging to Government. Both prizes were taken to Sebastopol.

PORTUGAL.

The rumours of insurrectionary movements on the part of the Miguelites in the provinces are not confirmed, and are believed to be

without foundation. When the last advices left Lisbon, no opposition was manifested to the Regency of the King Consort.

AMERICA.

By the steamer *Pacific* we have advices to the 26th ult. She has brought 587,000 dollars in specie on freight.

There had been great mortality in the packet-ships arriving at New York since last advices. On board the ships *William Tappan*, *American Union*, *Emma Fields*, *Centurion*, and *Calhoun*, the deaths had been 65, 80, 13, 42, and 54 respectively; the *Corinthian*, from Havre, 41 deaths; the *Statesman*, from Antwerp, 25; the *Delaware*, from Bremen, 15; and the *Gottenburg*, from Hamburg, 27 deaths.

The steamer *Washington*, from Bremen and Southampton, arrived at New York on the 24th ult. The packet-ship *Constellation* arrived at New York, from Liverpool, on the 25th ult., and was placed in quarantine, having a large number of passengers laid up with cholera: 100 passengers died on the passage. The *Hibernia*, from Liverpool, lost thirty-three passengers from the same disease.

A dreadful conflagration had occurred at New York, in Washington, Jane, and Tray-streets, on the 17th ult., destroying upwards of 500,000 dollars worth of property, and rendering many families houseless.

The new ship *Great Republic*, of 4555 tons, had sailed from Boston for New York to load for Liverpool.

A Special Cabinet Meeting had been held at Washington on the 25th, when the President's Message was read over for the first time.

It is understood that the estimates which will be presented to Congress will show a material reduction over those presented last year.

A good deal of feeling had been expressed at Washington in consequence of Mr. Crampton, at Julien's Concert, remaining seated whilst "Hail, Columbia!" was being played, the rest of the audience having risen from their seats.

The news from Europe, per Canada, had depressed the New York Stock Market. Most descriptions of Stock declined.

PASSENGERS FROM AUSTRALIA.—The first of several actions at law for non-fulfilment of contract in bringing home passengers from Australia, has been decided, in the Court of Common Pleas, in the case of Smith, v. the Australian Royal Steam Mail Navigation Company, against that company. The case lasted four days, and the evidence went to show that the passengers had not the berths they ought to have had; that the provisions were bad; and the cabins not kept clean or properly ventilated. The jury having given a verdict for the plaintiff, the Lord Chief Judge said all the cases were alike except two, and in those two man and wife were plaintiffs. In each of the ordinary cases the verdict would be for £50, but would be £70 for man and wife. In the seven cases which were entered on the cause list, the jury were then sworn, and returned verdicts in accordance with this decision—viz., Morgan and wife, £70; Dighton, £50; Westbrook, £50; Wheatley and wife, £70; Lax, £50; Page, £50; Evans, £50. Mr. Sergeant Byles said the verdicts on the whole eleven actions amounted to £610, considerably more than the company had received for the passage-money of these persons; so that they had carried them safely 12,000 miles for nothing, and had given them money besides.

THE RUSSIAN NAVY.—The efficiency of the naval power of Russia may be judged of to some extent by the following extract from a letter from Portsmouth, on Monday, which says:—"Russian corvette, *Navarin*, 22, had all the fore part of her copper stripped off, and commenced caulking. How she kept afloat is a mystery; her old caulking came out in rags with the copper from the seams like rotten paper; and as to the caulking irons, they went clean in to the head at the first blow, to the astonishment of our caulkers, who imagined they should find their irons inside the vessel. We will vouch for it that four times the quantity of oakum will be required over and above that of our own ships; and if these vessels now in our dockyard are specimens of the general condition of the Russian fleet, they will be annihilated at the first broadside from either French or English line-of-battle ship."

STITCHES IN A COAT.—There are, according to a statement made by a tailor in Boston, 25,243 stitches in a coat—viz., basting, 782; in the edges of the coat, 4590; felling the edges, faces, &c., 7414; out of sight, in the pockets, &c., 1982; in the collar alone, 3056; seams, 5359; button-holes, 1450. A coat takes two days, journeyman's hours, to make.

WRECK OF THE "MERIDIAN."

Of this painfully-interesting catastrophe, which occurred on the 24th of August last, on the south-western point of the island of Amsterdam, in the Indian Ocean, we have been favoured with the following narrative by one of the passengers. The two accompanying Illustrations are from lithographs, published at Port Louis, Mauritius:—

On Saturday, June 4th, the ship *Meridian*, Captain Richard Treseda Hernaman, left Gravesend with a full cargo of merchandise, together with twenty-six first-cabin and fifty-eight second-cabin passengers, consisting of men, women, and children; and a crew nominally of twenty-three, but in reality consisting of only fourteen working seamen, including the Captain and three mates, the others being employed as cooks, stewards, &c.; and one sailor, who had rheumatic fever soon after sailing, and who continued ill all the voyage. I may mention that the second mate's watch consisted of only two men and two boys to work the ship. It will thus be seen that the ship was not properly manned; and often the passengers, of their own accord certainly, had to lend their assistance in pulling the ropes; but, of course, they did only in fine weather: when rough, and their help more needed, they were absent. The provisions were of a very inferior quality. The ship was most certainly a good one, a very fast sailer, and the Captain bore an excellent character, zealous in his profession, and anxious his ship should out-sail all others; and this emulation proved our ruin, for on the day we were wrecked we passed the *John Sugars*, for Sydney; and, from our Captain's anxiety to beat it, he was induced to steer in such a way as to run us on the island of Amsterdam, having, only half an hour before we struck, ordered the man at the wheel to alter the course a point—that very alteration proving our destruction, for if the course had not been altered, we should have been from twelve to fifteen miles clear of the island; this fatal error he paid for with his life.

Our voyage, until the fatal night, was a good one, our ship having passed, with one exception, every vessel we came up to, giving great satisfaction to all on board, as we fully expected to make a quick passage to Sydney. I now refer to my journal:—

August 24th.—A boisterous, stormy morning, with rain, blowing a strong gale, which commenced at half-past three a.m.; at which hour we were disturbed by the Captain ordering out all hands to take in sail. At this time, to us who were in bed, there was nothing to indicate the necessity for this precaution, as everything was quiet; but, in about a quarter of an hour after, a squall came on, and suddenly the wind was heard blowing with great violence; the sea running high, and the ship pitching and rolling heavily. At this time we were able only to carry the fore-topmast staysail until six a.m., when the main-top and fore-top sails, both double-reefed, were hoisted. At noon the fore-sail, reefed, was set. The gale continued blowing all day; and we were going the right course at ten knots per hour.

Our Captain told us we should not now see the island of St. Paul's as expected, but Amsterdam instead. To-day our lat. was 38.10, long. not taken. The lat. of the day before was 38.50, long. 74.20; this I had from the captain himself. At fifteen minutes past seven, just as we had finished tea, we were alarmed by a great bumping, showing us we were on a rock; the captain, who was in the cuddy at the time, immediately rushed out and went on the poop; the children and passengers were thrown down with great violence on the floor from one side of the cabin to the other; all were much frightened, and great confusion ensued. On looking out, it was found we were on a reef of rocks, about a quarter of a mile from the island of Amsterdam, and we were afterwards driven by the force of the waves close in shore. Although it was expected we should sight the island, yet no look-out had been kept; even when the watch was changed at six p.m., the second mate pointed out to the first mate what appeared to him to be a small rising, but which proved to be the island, yet no notice was taken of it. The bumping continued constantly with every wave; and the captain, the cook, and Piau (as before-stated) were lost, all the others eventually were rescued. When we first struck, the stern-posts and rudder were knocked from their places, admitting the water into the stern cabin; this fortunately afterwards proved our great safeguard, for shortly the skylight on the poop was broken by the force of the waves, and through it tons of water poured into the cabin with each wave which washed over the ill-fated vessel, and found its way out again through the stern cabins; but for this, and the ship remaining on one side, we should all have been drowned. The second-class passengers, who had scarcely time to get out of their cabin (the water suddenly rising between decks as high as their necks), were brought into the cuddy, where we all remained in a most wretched state until half-past four or five in the morning; we had been recommended so to do by Mr. Leonard Worthington, our third mate, who, throughout the night, behaved in a most gallant manner; telling us, if we would only remain quiet till daylight he would answer for our safety; he likewise promised us that he would not leave the vessel until he had got us safe ashore, which he and a sailor named Snow accomplished in a most praiseworthy manner. Even this assurance of our safety could not allay the uneasiness we felt at our situation.

Prayers were offered up to the Almighty for our preservation, and I believe every one, thinking there was no chance of our being saved, made preparation for going to their last resting-place; but it pleased God this time to spare us. We continued in this perilous situation all night, ex-

pecting every moment the ship would go to pieces, from the continued bumping, and the immense quantity of water pouring upon us. At half-past one a.m., the vessel parted amid-ships; and, as soon as daylight appeared we prepared to leave the vessel; and as we did so, walking along the main-mast (which fortunately fell so as to form a bridge from the cuddy door to the shore), the waves broke over us, knocking us down on the rugged rocks, and fearfully bruising us.

August 25th.—When the day fully broke, our situation appeared most frightful, a perpendicular rock of 300 or 400 feet, hanging over our heads with no apparent means of ascent, and the waves washing nearly up to our feet; thus it seemed we had only escaped one danger to be exposed to another, worse if possible—starvation. As the day advanced the sailors returned to the wreck, for the purpose of getting stores; but I am sorry to say, plunder appeared their chief object, and the scenes of drunkenness which ensued were most disgraceful, not among the sailors only, for even some of the passengers were also guilty of the same, showing how soon they had forgotten the mercy so lately bestowed upon them. We sat all this day on the rocks, nearly paralysed with the thoughts of our present danger, and of the loss we had sustained—grieved to see the ship we had been so proud of, breaking up before our eyes. On examination, it was found that only three lives had been lost, which is wonderful considering the large number of children who were on board.

August 26th.—We passed the last night on the rocks in great fear that the sea would flow up to the spot on which we rested, and in much anxiety, for it was evident that unless we could get on high ground we should certainly be washed off when the wind was blowing from the south-west. By some means, one of the passengers ascended the cliff the morning after the wreck, proving the possibility of getting up; the sailors to-day looked out for a proper place to fix ropes, and were successful in attaching them to rocks on the top. Some of the passengers went up by means of them, intending to pass the night there; and they set fire to the reeds for the purpose of giving notice of our situation to any vessel that might be passing. The island is covered with reeds of from five to eight feet high, and the fire, at times, extending more rapidly than they had anticipated, put their lives in danger; the light from the fire was to us below on the shore most terrific. Rations were given out to all this morning for the day, consisting of one biscuit and a red herring for adults, and half of the above for the children. On board the ship, as cargo, were a great many red and blue woollen shirts for the gold-diggers; many of these were saved on the first day, and were of great service to us all; but gave us a most curious appearance, all wearing them—men, women, and children. A great number of ready-made trousers were also saved, useful to the women as well as the men.

August 27th.—The night was again passed by us on the rocks; but, in the course of this day, we ascended the cliff by means of the rope—a most difficult task, but which was accomplished without accident, by aid of the sailors. They drew the women up by means of a rope fastened to them; the men ascended by holding on by the two outer ropes, and pulling themselves up—a distance of at least 300 feet of nearly perpendicular rock. On reaching the top we found the island almost flat for about two or three miles, covered with reeds; and then there arose a very lofty mountain, covered also with high reeds. Fortunately, we found plenty of fresh water whilst on the island, although in the summer time there is most probably a scarcity; during our stay there was a constant rain on the mountain top, which supplies the numerous small streams. We all passed the night again in the open air, sheltered as well as we could from the wind by the reeds, but exposed to the rain.

August 28th.—This is Sunday; but we had no service to-day, as usual on board our ship; in the evening, however, we were invited to join some others in prayer which was offered up for our preservation. During the day, numbers of young birds were picked up, destroyed by the fire; they were collected together and cooked, and then divided amongst all, about one-third of a bird to each; which, on account of our short commons, was very acceptable. One of the party who went out with his gun to endeavour to get some food, on his return, reported that he had seen a ship, but very far off. This day a tent was erected for the women and children to pass the night in, the men sleeping outside; but, during the night, a gale came on, and blew the tent down, causing great confusion.

August 29th.—The island proves to be very wet, there having been rain every day and night since it has been our lot to be here. A vessel was seen to-day (the *Monmouth*), as we afterwards learnt, and the same that was seen yesterday), which caused much excitement amongst us; fires were lighted to attract attention, and signals were hoisted—with good effect, thank God! for they were answered; and we hope yet to leave this desolate island. They saw us, and neared the land, hoisting signals in return to ours, to show they were aware of our situation; but the sea, at this place, ran so high, that it was impossible for any boat to live in the surf; therefore she stood away; we hoped, however, to see her again. Most probably she was a whaler, as there are numbers of whales blowing near here. Passed the night again in the open air; heavy rain. There was a gale during the night from the south-west, and the sea ran so high as to wash away many of the stores which had been preserved from the wreck, and which had not yet been removed out of danger.

August 30th.—Our rations to-day were reduced to half a biscuit, a few raisins, and half-boiled pig, as the loss of stores last night had much reduced them. There is much quarrelling and threatening to shoot each other, the effects of drinking from a cask of brandy, which unfortunately was saved from the wreck.

August 31st.—Finding we had food only for three days, our rations for the day were half a biscuit and a few preserved apples. About 10 this morning, we were agreeably surprised to see a boat approaching the shore near our encampment, and the persons in it signalled us to move along the cliff to the eastward; this caused great excitement amongst us; the thought of our deliverance created such anxiety that nearly all started hurriedly away without any provisions, understanding that we had only a short distance to go, but we were sadly disappointed. We found the road most rugged and most difficult to pass over on the large rocks lying in our way, and the necessity of keeping close to the edge of the cliff that in many places walking was rendered most dangerous. One of the party we travelled with had a tin of red herrings with him, of which we each had one for supper when we lay down at night, taking care to fix on a spot near some water.

September 1st.—We started again at sunrise, and had half a herring for breakfast, no biscuit, and we got over a night another four miles of the rugged road—in one place having to pass over a very steep and high ridge of rocks, the reeds in other places being higher than our heads; the only vegetation besides the reeds and bushes seen on our journey so far were wild parsley and sow-thistles. As we travelled on we found the hailstones very acceptable, for we met with very little water during the early part of the day. Whilst we were stopping at the first watering place, we were overtaken by an English sailor named Smith, who had been sent across the island by the captain of the ship we had formerly seen, to our assistance; he reported the vessel to be an American whaler, the *Monmouth*, Captain Isaac Ludlow, of Long Island. Smith kindly assured us that the captain would not leave the island until we were all got off in safety; he was very kind to us, and tried to keep our spirits up, and desired us to make all possible haste. We thanked God for his mercy to us in thus sending aid, and marched on our toilsome journey in far better spirits from the kind treatment of Smith, who did all he could to help us. He told us to go on to the northern side of the island, as no boat could reach us at the place where we were wrecked. The distance, however, was too far for us to reach that day, we found, being quite exhausted; we therefore looked out for a comfortable place to sleep in.

September 2nd.—We found ourselves much exhausted to-day, not having had any food since yesterday morning, and no water since three p.m. yesterday. Thinking we were not far from our appointed rendezvous, one of the party went forward alone, to get assistance, as the children could scarcely move. Our food to-day was only a sardine each. We passed the night again in the open air, very cold and wet.

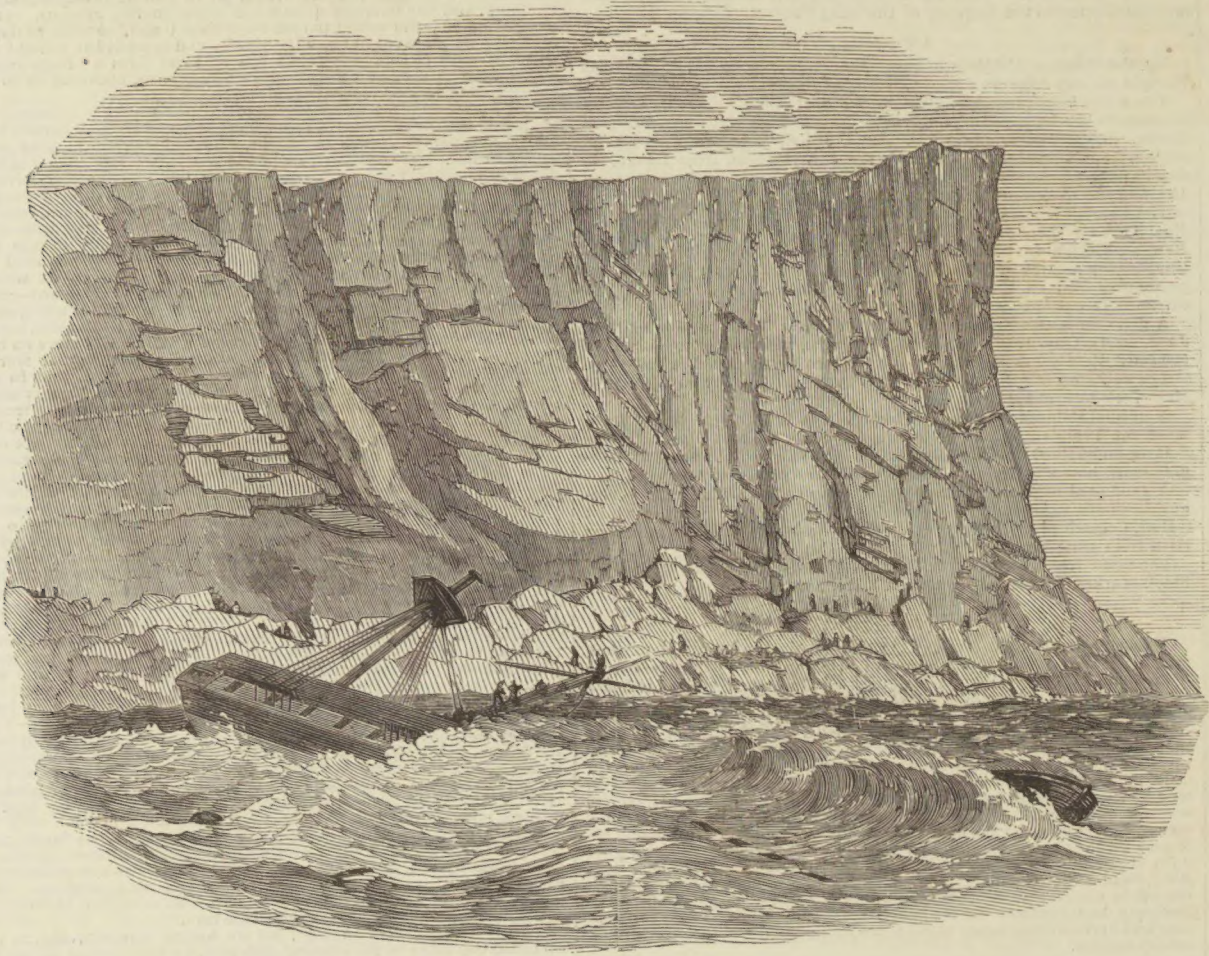
September 3rd.—Started this morning early, with the other party; but my children could not keep up with them, their feet, from walking, being very sore; we therefore went on slowly by ourselves, hoping assistance might reach us soon with provisions; we met with water three times, and just at sunset we saw smoke some distance off; we hastened on, and found a party there who had passed us in the morning, encamped near some water; they had a few cabbage-leaves (given them by some of our sailors who were returning for stores) boiling in a teapot; they gave each of us a spoonful, this being all we had that day excepting water. As the place appeared well sheltered from the wind, we determined to remain here for the night.

September 4th.—Started early with our companions, but made small progress, being obliged frequently to stop, that the women and children might rest; the only food amongst eight of us this day was two cabbage-stalks and part of a small bird (eaten raw), which a large bird was devouring on the rock, but our necessities compelled us to rob him of his meal. The reeds were again our bed this night.

I ought to mention, respecting the cabbages, that some years ago they were sown in that part of the island to which we were going by some whalers, and they have thrived well.

September 5th.—Started at sunrise, and breakfasted on a cabbage stalk; walked on in a very exhausted state, until we reached what he called the cabbage garden; here we met a friend who gave us some limpets he had taken from the seashore: these we ate raw, with some cabbages; and, after resting a short time, we started again, and reached the general camp just as the boats from the ship arrived for us. The sailors brought with them some raw salt pork and biscuits, of which we made a hearty meal, and then walked on another mile, with great difficulty, to the place of embarkation, where the women and children were taken off first. On board tea, biscuit, pork, beef, &c., were liberally supplied to us; but what added most to our gratification was, that we met with every civility and attention from a kind captain and crew, who did all in their power to alleviate our sufferings. Words cannot express the gratitude we felt for all this kindness, as well as for having rescued us from the island. On arriving at the place of embarkation we found that the steward of the *Meridian*, who was carrying my youngest child, a girl only four years old, was not there, he having mistaken his road; these, with a sick man, too ill to walk, were left on the island; but the Captain (who was determined not to leave the place until they were all safe on board) sent four of his crew in search of them.

September 6th.—We were much pleased this morning to see the



THE WRECK OF "THE MERIDIAN," OFF THE ISLAND OF AMSTERDAM, ON THE MORNING AFTER THE CATASTROPHE.

steward and the child brought on board safe. The intention of the Captain was to take us to the Mauritius—this being the nearest port.

September 9th.—Until to-day we have been beating about the island, waiting for the arrival of the sailors with the sick man, who was brought on board this afternoon. Sail was immediately made for the Mauritius.

I must now say something of the island, and of the kindness of all connected with the *Monmouth* to us. We were wrecked on the southern side of Amsterdam, the worst part, and where there is always a surf breaking on the rugged shore; beach there is none; nothing but immense blocks of hard stone, which have from time to time fallen from the cliff. The island is of volcanic origin: indeed, I am informed by Captain Ludlow he saw smoke issuing from a crater just over the place where we were encamped; and as we travelled along we found all the rocks on the surface bearing every appearance of having at some time been in a fluid state. The stones are very heavy, and contain much iron.

We did not see any animals on the island, but plenty of birds; with the exception of reeds and rushes, there was little vegetation; but there is a good peat, which was exceedingly useful to us in making the fires at our various encampments. The island is about 25 miles in circumference, and the part to which we were directed to move (the northern side) is the most pleasant, being much warmer. At this part only did we see any trees. The species was unknown, but one of the sailors thought it was the dog-tree, a bastard species of the mangrove. On this side, too, there is plenty of fine fish to be taken a short distance from the shore, and on the rocks plenty of limpets; but, as we had no boats to take them, to us they were useless. Captain Ludlow, on our arrival on board his ship, sent one of his boats out to catch some, and shortly returned with plenty

of large fish, taken with a hook and line, and very good eating they proved.

The kind way in which we were treated by Captain Ludlow can never be effaced from our memories. But for his timely aid, 105 British subjects would have died a miserable death from starvation. We can look upon our rescue but as a most merciful interposition of Providence; for the *Monmouth* was the only vessel whaling near the island last year, and her arrival there this season was full a fortnight sooner than usual. We who have lost our all by the wreck, are unable to recompense him and his crew as they deserve for the loss they have sustained by assisting us; we trust, however, that the British Government, and the people of England, who are deeply interested in the colony of Australia, will not allow the opportunity to pass of justly rewarding such a noble act of humanity, performed by one of our American brethren. As regards the crew of the *Monmouth*, who are all, with one exception, Americans, we found them most kind and obliging to us all; and, although our rescue was effected at the expense of their whaling, yet for us they were willing, both captain and crew, to sacrifice their time and profit. Honour to them all for it! and may they never be in a situation to require the same assistance! Ours is not the first ship which has been cast on the coast of Amsterdam; for, I understand, the *George*, of New London, United States, was wrecked there twelve or fourteen years ago; and the *Lady Munro* was also lost there, with all on board, except two convicts, who were going from the Mauritius to Botany Bay, about twenty years since.

September 26th.—This morning, at half-past six, we saw land, and arrived at the outer harbour of Port Louis at half-past five p.m., when we

cast anchor. The doctor and an inspector came on board to inquire into the state of our health. Finding it good, a red flag was left with us to hoist. On the following morning some of the passengers went on shore in the ship's boats; and in the afternoon the Government sent a steamer to take off the remainder, a place having been arranged at the Lazaretto for their reception. Provisions were found for them at first, then an allowance of money was given to each instead. Much good feeling was expressed for our destitute condition: money and clothes were liberally sent down to be divided—the greatest kindness being shown us by all.



PASSENGERS OF "THE MERIDIAN" ASCENDING THE CLIFFS OF THE ISLAND OF AMSTERDAM.

Among others, I may mention the names of Messrs. Alloway, George Robinson, Channell, Henry Brun, and the Freemasons living here—each person striving to assist us in the best way they could. Many others were equally zealous in relieving our necessities, but their names are unknown to me. Although we have undergone great hardships and privations, still the Christian charity we have since experienced fully reconciles us to our lot; and may God reward them for the relief they have afforded us.

NEW AUSTRALIAN CLIPPER SHIP "SPEEDY."

The fame of the *Marco Polo*, *Indian Queen*, *Sovereign of the Seas*, and other fast-sailing American-built ships, will shortly be contested by the new British clipper ship whose portrait we have engraved this week.

The *Speedy* has been built at the yard of Messrs. Cox and Son, of Bridport, on lines said to be unsurpassed by any vessel afloat; her appearance in the London Docks has excited much interest among the seafaring community, and the confidence of her admirers is shown in the

fact that heavy wagers are pending upon her accomplishing the voyage to Sydney in a less period than any other sailing ship has yet done. She is a noble vessel, of 1000 tons register, and 1500 tons burthen, and will carry a limited number of passengers at one uniform rate—all accommodated on the saloon or upper deck; the whole of the lower part of the ship being devoted to freight. Her qualifications appear to us equal to those of any vessel we have yet seen; every appointment both for passengers and crew, being most perfect. She has a poop of unusually large extent; an elegant saloon; is very lofty between decks; and her cabins, both in size and accommodation, are of the highest order. Her brokers, Messrs. Hotchkin and Mobbs, have spared no

pains to render the vessel as comfortable aboard as she is outwardly beautiful in mould.

Messrs. Frowse and Co., of Liverpool, the owners of the *Speedy*, are the proprietors of many of the finest liners afloat. The *Speedy* is appointed to sail on the 10th inst., and it will be both curious and satisfactory to the south country builders, if the palm of success in the construction of clipper-ships should after all be awarded to Bridport. She is expected to make the passage to Sydney in seventy days; and her dimensions are as follow:—Length from stern to stern-post, 192 feet; over all, 202 feet; beam, 33 feet; depth of hold, 21 feet; poop, 62 feet long. She is built of teak and English oak.



NEW AUSTRALIAN CLIPPER, "SPEEDY."

PRINCE MENSCHIKOW,

THE RUSSIAN MINISTER OF MARINE.

The name of Prince Menschikow (pronounced, and written in English, Menschikoff) has been familiar in men's mouths in connection with the origin of the dispute between Russia and Turkey. From the nature of his original employment in connection with that question, it might very naturally have been inferred that he was attached to the diplomatic service. Such, however, is not the case. It is the custom in Russia to employ public servants in various capacities—just as, until within a comparatively recent period, was the case in this country. The reader of our domestic history will have met with numerous instances of statesmen suddenly called to the command of fleets, without having had the previous training necessary, according to the ideas of the present day. In Russia these anomalies exist, and are, indeed, a part of the system.

The Prince is by profession (as far as any one in Russia can be said to have a distinct profession) a sailor. All his real laurels have been won as an administrator of the Marine of Russia. Yet was he taken, some quarter of a century ago, from his ships in the north and from his government of Finland, to the command of troops on the Danube: nor was his mission to Constantinople, whence have arisen so many evils, the first of the kind in which he had been engaged.

Prince Menschikoff enjoys the honour of descent from the first Count and the first Prince created by a Russian Sovereign. Till then, the dignity of Count was unknown, and that of Prince was only borne by the descendants of Rurik. The honours of the Menschikoff family were won in the reign of Peter the Great, when Alexander Menschikoff, the son of a peasant, and born in the neighbourhood of Moscow, attained to great distinction in the state. His early occupation accorded with his birth, for he sold pastry for a confectioner in the streets of Moscow. His first advancement in life is variously accounted for. It is said that he was instrumental in unmasking a conspiracy by the Strelitz against the Government; while it is also asserted that Lafort, having accidentally discerned the quickness of his talents, took him under his protection, and determined to educate him for the public service. Menschikoff accompanied Lafort in the great embassy of 1697. He proved his aptitude for public affairs; and, on the death of Lafort, succeeded to the confidence of the Czar. Even at this period of his life, that passion for money, which caused his ultimate downfall, exhibited itself to an extent which called forth public inquiry into his peculations. The Empress Catherine subsequently befriended him, and titles showered thickly upon him. He was raised to the post of First Minister, was made Field Marshal for his exploits at the battle of Pultowa, Duke of Ingria, and Baron and Prince of the German Empire; and also received Orders from the Courts of Copenhagen, Dresden, and Berlin. He was raised to the dignity of a Russian Prince on 30th May, 1707. On the death of the Czar, it was chiefly through Menschikoff's influence that Catherine was raised to the throne. Scandal asserted that he had preceded, and that he now again succeeded Peter the Great in the favours of the Czarina. His ascendancy during the reign of Peter the Second was at its height. At one time he had succeeded in betrothing his daughter, Maria Menschikoff, to the young Paul the Second; but the interference of the Dolgoronoy family prevented the marriage. Menschikoff, who had only just before been invested with the title of Generalissimo, was now destined to suffer a sad, but in Russia a very common, reverse. Fresh instances of embezzlement of the public funds having been brought home to him, he was suddenly hurled from power, his vast estate confiscated, and himself condemned to perpetual exile in Siberia. For the rest of his life he practised great self-denial; and so frugal was his expenditure, that out of an income of ten roubles a day, he contrived to save sufficient to construct a church, in which, it is said, he himself worked as a carpenter. He died in 1729, in the 60th year of his age. His crowning vice was avarice, which led to his mal-appropriation of the money of the nation; but his courage, and his capacity for large and difficult enterprises, placed him in the foremost rank of Russian statesmen. Within a year after his death, his son Alexander, who had succeeded to his title, was recalled from exile.

We do not read of any other very distinguished member of the family till we come to the present Prince; but, according to the general consent of writers on Russia, he amply makes up, by his abilities and services, for any deficiencies in his immediate ancestors.

We have no record of the exact date of Prince Menschikoff's birth, but believe it to have been in the year 1794 or 1796. After having been subjected to the usual course of education in Russia, he was prepared for the naval service, in which he obtained his first experience. He gradually rose in the confidence of successive Emperors, till he was appointed to the post of Minister of Marine, which he filled during the reign of the Emperor Alexander, and still holds to this hour. If Prince Menschikoff had



PRINCE MENSCHIKOW, THE RUSSIAN MINISTER OF MARINE.

never done more to cause his name to be remembered than discharge, as he has done, his efficient duties, he would still have been inscribed on the roll of fame. Those who know him best, speak of him as an administrative officer of extraordinary ability, and as one of the most remarkable men of whom the annals of Russia have any note. As a statesman, he is even pronounced to be a man of genius—if any Russian contemporary minister or statesman be entitled to that designation. It is to him that Russia owes the resuscitation of her navy, which, during the reign of Emperor Alexander, had fallen into decay and disrepute. Even before the death of that Monarch, Prince Menschikoff had effected such changes and reforms, that he received, in the most public and honourable manner, the special thanks of the Emperor Alexander himself for the service he had then rendered to his country; and the best proof that his successor could afford of his participation in those sentiments was given when he continued him in that appointment, which, as we have said, he has held ever since. He is Admiral in the Russian service, and adds to the post of Chief of the Department of Marine, that of Governor of Finland. This, also, he has held for many years.

We have stated that it is the custom in Russia to employ public men in different branches of the public service indiscriminately. This happened to Prince Menschikoff soon after the accession of the Emperor Nicholas to the throne. He was sent by his new Sovereign on an embassy to Teheran, to propose to the Shah of Persia an exchange of territory. He was not successful in his mission, but he received the thanks of the Emperor for his services. He had thus been employed in the naval department, as a civil governor, and as a special ambassador; he was now to be engaged in a service purely military, wherein, it must be added, he was not supremely successful.

In the campaign of 1828, on the Danube, Prince Menschikoff took an important part. The plan of the Russians was to reduce Varna; after that, Shumla; and then to push on towards Constantinople. So important had these operations been considered, that the Emperor Nicholas had accompanied the army, which he only quitted on its being

encamped before Varna. Prince Menschikoff took the command in person, and almost immediately afterwards (on the 2nd August) succeeded in carrying the position of the enemy in advance of Varna, from which it was necessary to dislodge them ere commencing the actual siege. The Turks fought with a bravery that puts into the shade their recent exploits. The bayonet was new to the Turkish soldiers; yet they charged the Russians at the point of the bayonet without shrinking. Their general operations were so well conducted, that, although, at the close of a series of murderous conflicts, the Russians were enabled, after great loss, to obtain a parallel which would render their bombardment of Varna more effectual, they were many times in danger of total repulse. Prince Menschikoff was compelled to expose himself personally to danger, and was so severely wounded, that he was obliged to resign the command to Prince Woronzoff.

After his recovery, and after (we believe) assisting at the conclusion of the treaty of Adrianople, he was sent to the East, to the scene of operations, where the General, who now superseded him, has since gained laurels as an administrator and a general. Here he distinguished himself by taking the fort of Anapa, on the Black Sea; an exploit which raised him higher than ever in favour of the Emperor, as it was of immense service to the Russian operations against the Circassians and the other tribes on the coast.

Prince Menschikoff seems now to have returned to the capital, and to have resumed his functions as Minister of Marine, and we hear no more of him till he again appears on the scene as an unsuccessful Ambassador. The stirring events of the last few months appear to have obliterated from the public mind the immediate origin of the present war, and the personal connection of Prince Menschikoff therewith, although the circumstances are forcibly recalled by the bold rumour that he is disgraced by his Sovereign for his mismanagement of the negotiation. It is said that the Czar now turns round on his too obedient instrument, declaring that Menschikoff had promised him success with Turkey if he would let him play the part of the bully. The past conduct of Nicholas, even his most recent proclamations, discredit this story.

The proceedings of Prince Menschikoff reflect more credit on his talent (according to Russian ideas of ability) than on his sense of honour. He appears to have gone to Constantinople with a pre-arranged determination to provoke a quarrel, and with a concealed purpose, which, if bad in itself, was all the worse for being so concealed. His demeanour, on arriving at Constantinople, was marked by studied insult to the Sultan and his Ministers, and his conduct generally excited the disgust of the representatives of other powers. As, however, it was not the desire of the Porte, acting under advice, to give the Czar the cause of quarrel he wished for, the demands of which Prince Menschikoff was the bearer were gravely considered, and such as were consistent with treaties were at once acceded to. The affair was thus supposed by the Sultan and the Ambassadors of other Powers to have been brought to an amicable conclusion; but such a termination was not consistent with the instructions or the plans of Prince Menschikoff. Whether he exceeded his instructions cannot yet be known. Certainly, at one time, when the indignation of Europe was first aroused, there was talk of his being disavowed by the Emperor; but it came to nothing, and, if it ever was seriously entertained, the Emperor has since so compromised himself by his own subsequent acts, as to have been deprived of the power of exercising this convenient privilege of Kings in difficulties. There can be little doubt that Prince Menschikoff went to Constantinople for the express purpose of picking a quarrel with the Sultan, and so of furnishing an *ex parte* excuse for the long-meditated aggression of Russia on the Danubian Provinces. No sooner had the original proposals of the Prince been acceded to by the Turkish Government (which behaved throughout with admirable honour and moderation), than new ones were put forth, wholly incompatible with the Sultan's rights of Sovereignty over his Christian subjects. In vain did the Sultan issue a new charter of freedom to those subjects; it was not their freedom Prince Menschikoff was sent to obtain, but an excuse for marching an army into the Danubian provinces, it being supposed that the relations of England and France were such as to prevent their interference. Prince Menschikoff played his part with a wicked consistency, a mixture of audacity and mendacity, for a parallel to which we must look to the proceedings of some of the envoys of the elder Napoleon, when he sought pretexts to invade a neighbour's dominions. At length, on the 5th of May, matters being supposed to be ripe for an invasion of the Principalities, Prince Menschikoff sent in the Emperor's ultimatum. He demanded for the Emperor the Protectorate of the Greek Christians in Turkey, and a special treaty, according to the Russo-Greek Church in Turkey all the rights and privileges ever demanded for it, especially as to the "Holy Places." Further, the Greek Patriarch at Constantinople, who hitherto had been removable at the pleasure of the Sultan, was now to be removable only



THE BALKANS.—SKETCHED FROM BELOW GALATZ.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

for proved high treason or gross misconduct, and then not without the consent of the Czar! Such insolent pretensions were assuredly never put forth before by any one Sovereign against another; and it required no ordinary Muscovitism in Prince Menschikoff to induce him to submit to the disgrace of fathering such iniquity. The unanimous advice of the friendly Ambassadors led the Sultan to reject these demands, on the 13th of the same month; and Prince Menschikoff, having thus, by his gross personal misconduct and his impudent demand, provoked the semblance of the desired quarrel, at once left Constantinople. Nicholas immediately sent his troops into the Moldo-Wallachian provinces; and, by publishing a defence of his pretensions, which was an insult to the sense and feeling of mankind, effectually exonerated Menschikoff from all blame, except that of having been the base and brutal instrument of undisguised tyranny and oppression. The Prince's part was now played; and we presume he returned to St. Petersburg, once more to put himself at the head of the Department of Marine.

The latest accounts from St. Petersburg, however, state that Menschikoff has fallen into disgrace with his Imperial master, who, as a matter of course, attributes to him the whole of the annoyances and difficulties which have arisen between him and the Sultan, and the disgrace and dangers which may follow. It is added that the Emperor was constantly assured, in the commencement of the quarrel, by Prince Menschikoff, that he had only to menace Turkey to obtain all and even more than he desired; that the Western Powers would not only afford no succour to the Sultan, but would leave him exposed to all the danger he would necessarily incur by a refusal; that if France manifested any wish to come to his aid, she would be deterred from following it up by the certainty that she would be left alone in her sympathy; in fact, that there was not the slightest chance of Turkey showing any serious resistance, if Russia spoke loud enough to her. The Emperor Nicholas, thus deceived on all hands—though, no doubt, his advisers believed all they said—followed up his formidable preparations, menaced his best, and at length found himself in a position which has every day become critical, and from which there appeared soon no escape without humiliation.

THE BALKAN, AS SEEN FROM THE DANUBE BELOW GALATZ.

THE view from the flat and marshy shores of the Danube, to the south—to where

The Balkan cliffs, like giants, stand,
To sentinel enchanted land,

Is one of the most imposing and suggestive to be met with in the whole wide field of European travel. From the lofty heights of that rocky wall (the Hamus of the ancients) twenty-three centuries of known history look down upon us; and its dark and fearful defiles (the name signifies "a difficult defile amongst rocks") are still the same as when Darius marched through them, from south to north, nearly five hundred years before the Christian Era;—the same as when Diebitsch marched through them southward but a quarter of a century ago. During all this long lapse of time the broad and rich delta lying between the Carpathian Mountains and the Balkan Range has lain almost unimproved, its valuable resources almost unknown to the rest of Europe; and the

mighty river, upon whose waters they might have been borne for export to all parts of the world, has become choked up so as to be almost impassable.

At a recent meeting of the Geographical Society, a paper by General Jochmus, Ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Germanic Empire of 1848, communicated by Sir E. Murchison, was read, describing a journey undertaken in September and October, 1847, in the Balkan; with an account of the various defiles through it, and a comparison of the routes pursued by Darius, Alexander the Great, and General Diebitsch. General Jochmus, in this interesting document, states:—

So far, the general line of operations of Darius appears to be clear. He crossed the Bosphorus on a bridge of boats, connecting the two continents at the site of the present new castles of Asia and Europe (Gibbon and Herod., Melp. iv., sec. 87), encamped successively at the sources of the Taurus (Banarhisar) and on the banks of the Téké or Artiskus (at Dewletgatch); and, following the direction of Burgas and Aiholi, and submitting the sea towns, he passed afterwards the Balkan by the defiles parallel to the sea coast, from Misivria to Iowan Derwish, moving thus from south to north by the same roads which were chosen by Generals Roth and Rüdiger, and by Marshal Diebitsch himself, from north to south, in 1829. The Russians, also, in 1828, and Darius, about 2300 years before them, passed the Danube "at that part of the river where it begins to branch off" (Melp. iv., sec. 89), that is, near the modern Issatscha.

The description of the defiles through the Balkan, given by the General, are so interesting, as additions to our geographical knowledge, and so important at the present juncture, that we extract a passage of some extent, slightly abridged:—

In order to reconnoitre the important line of the Hamus or Balkan, which is so little known that the celebrated historian of the Turkish Empire, Herr Von Hammer, reduces erroneously to seven the number of the passages or defiles in the principal mountain chain, I intended to explore the whole ridge, from Cape Eminch (Finis Hæmi) to Tirnova, at the foot of the mountains between Schibka and Dranova. I have, therefore, traversed in zigzag, seven times, the principal chain of the Balkan, viz.:—From Misivria to Sudshiler, from Sudshiler to Achly, from Achly to Dobral, from Dobral to Carnabat, from Carnabat to Kasan, from Kasan to Selimneh, from Selimneh to Tirnova; and seven times the minor ridges of the Hamus, viz., from Tirnova to Osmanbazar, from Osmanbazar to Kasan, from Kasan to Czalikavak, from Czalikavak to Koprikoi, from Koprikoi to Schumla, from Schumla to Paraivadi, from Paraivadi to Varna. Leaving Misivria, accompanied by a trusty guide of Sultan Efendi's, we crossed the low ground (marshy in the wet season) extending north of Misivria, towards the Greek village of Monastirkoi; and, having to our right the scale of Ajanas, at the bottom of a fine sandy beach, we ascended the steep vine-clad southern declivities of the Balkan, leaving, right and left, various pretty and picturesque villages. The highest point of the mountain chain above Monastirkoi may be estimated at about 2000 feet; while the pass or dervend itself lies about 1800 feet above the sea, leading to Bana, four hours from Misivria; the latter two hours and three-quarters through thick forest, chiefly oak, crossed in different directions by roads, for the carts which take wood and timber to the neighbouring scales of Misivria, Ajanas, Kozluck, and Ereky. The northern branch of the Kamshik is called the Akully, or Wise Kamshik; its floods being generally more tranquil, and its course wider. Both branches unite between Buyuk Chenga and Koprikoi, and form the ancient Pamyus, falling into the Black Sea between the Black and White Capes (Aspro Bournou and Mavro Bournou). From Isinplu

by Sadowa to Papaskoi, the gently rising road, on the left bank of the Kamshik, leads through the well-cultivated, tree-clad Balkan terraces. In the valley are numerous Turkish and Bulgarian villages, inhabited by a fine, sturdy, and apparently warlike population (especially the Mussulman part). Beyond Papaskoi begins a splendid oak forest, and the ascent towards Kasan becomes steeper. We cross twice the meandering course of one of the affluents of the Kamshik, which runs down from Kasan, and at three-quarters of an hour before that town we enter a very strong and deep defile, at first magnificently wooded on both sides, the river running on our left. A little later we cross the torrent, and the mountain gorge now shows trees only on its western flank, whilst its eastern side presents a succession of naked, bold, precipitous rocks. The scenery is awfully wild and grand, but the road, partly hewn in the rock, continues practicable for carts, and measures still ten feet in its narrowest part. On leaving the mountain pass, Kasan is seen at a short distance, secluded in one of the most inaccessible vales of the Balkan, and situated in a mountain cauldron, into which descends from the northern or southern slopes of the mighty Hamus lead only through defiles of such natural strength that a few determined men may arrest there entire armies. The industrious city of Kasan owes its flourishing and prosperous state to its municipal government, and to the circumstance that the Sublime Porte most likely ignores its very existence, whilst the *pro tempore* governor of the pachalik, probably too lazy to explore a rugged mountain region, is satisfied to know that a zabit, or police-officer, and under him a dozen of dervendshior, guardians of the mountain passes, represent at Kasan the authority of the Sultan. The inhabitants of Kasan, who thus have secured a municipal independence, carry on very extensive coarse cloth (or abah) manufactures, together with the agricultural and pastoral pursuits connected with this industry. Kasan, whose immediate vicinity is rather bare of trees, though the mountains that enclose it are covered with the secular forest that covers the whole eastern Balkan, lies above that elevation where wine can be cultivated, but the wealthy inhabitants of the town have extensive vineyards near Papaskoi. All the houses of Kasan are tile-roofed; and although the general aspect of the place is not cheerful, the streets being narrow and irregular, yet comparative comfort, and a certain feeling of security and independence, is perceptible everywhere. A church, built in 1834, and embellished by a Russian eagle—a menzil chané, or post-office—and two schools, are the public buildings. The virtually independent community of Kasan has become, since the last Russian war, the national and intellectual centre of Bulgaria, in lieu of Tirnova (the residence of a Turkish Pacha), which, however, is always mentioned, with a feeling of veneration, as the ancient capital. The schools of Kasan furnish numerous and the best popular teachers for Bulgaria. Selimneh and its neighbourhood has suffered a good deal from the late war; but as the Russians kept a strict discipline, and have paid for all their requisites, they have remained very popular in the country. In the campaign of 1829, General Montresor had his head-quarters at Mr. Iowansho's house; and the latter explained to me the details of his audacious and successful march from Selimneh on Kasan. The Russian army, being in possession of Varna and Silistria, and having defeated the Grand Vizier in the decisive battle of Kislévdsha, had forced the Balkan on the 16th and 17th of July, by the defiles of Iowan Derwish to Misivria and its plains. Having established an additional base of operation along the sea coast from Varna, by Misivria, Aiholi, Burgas, and Sizopolis, Marshal Diebitsch beat the Turks at Aidos, and then advanced on Selimneh, whence 4000 to 5000 men, with only four guns, under General Montresor, dislodged, on the 14th of August, one Soliman Pacha from Kasan, the possession of which place consolidated the insurrection of the Bulgarians of the Balkan, who had risen in favour of the Russians. Marshal Diebitsch then advanced safely on Adrianople, where he arrived on the 20th of August, and concluded there the celebrated peace of the 11th of September.

SOUTH.



NORTH.

THE PLANET SATURN.

THE PLANET SATURN.

THE magnificent planet Saturn, culminating now shortly before midnight, is, in respect of width of opening of his ring, and of meridian altitude, more favourably situated for minute and advantageous scrutiny, than he has been for many years, at least, in this latitude.

He will doubtless, therefore, be an attractive object to those who have good and powerful telescopes, even though they may not be, *par excellence*, astronomers. In respect of his satellites too, as he is, so far as we know, accompanied by a larger number than is possessed by any other attendant upon our Sun; and those, so varying in magnitude as to afford tests of the efficiency and power of almost every size of telescope, from the very smallest ever pointed to the stars, to the most powerful which has ever been constructed; he is an object of great interest to the votary of telescopes, as well as to the cultivator of astronomy, more especially.

But those not engaged in systematic and regular observation are often not sufficiently acquainted with the distances and paths of the satellites to be able readily to recognise and distinguish them from any fixed stars which may happen to lie near the planet. To render these easily recognisable is my present object; and it is at this time especially easy to do so, as none of the satellites can now be either eclipsed or occulted by the planet; and, therefore, they can at all times be seen by telescopes powerful enough to show them.

The accompanying Diagram represents the planet and his ring, drawn approximately to a scale, and the faint ellipses indicate the paths of the satellites in their revolutions round the planet, also in the same proportion, and numbered in order of distance. The view as indicated by the words "north," "south," &c., is that given by an inverting telescope. To prevent confusion from the closeness of the interior satellites, the orbits of two of them are pointed out only by dots, and not by continuous ellipses. The following table gives the proper names which have been applied to the satellites for the sake of distinction; their respective periods, or times of revolution; and their distances from the centre of the planet at the times of their greatest elongations (i.e., when they are in the line of the major axis of the ring east or west), expressed in equatorial radii of the ball or planet itself.

	Periods in days and decimals.	Distances. Radius of ball—1.
1. Mimas	0.943	3.36
2. Enceladus	1.370	4.31
3. Tethys	1.887	5.34
4. Dione	2.739	6.84
5. Rhea	4.517	9.56
6. Titan	15.945	22.14
7. Hyperion	21.297	28
8. Iapetus	79.330	64.36

The most distant satellite, Iapetus, is not included in the diagram, because its introduction would very much reduce the scale; and also

because not keeping, like the others, in the plane of the ring, its position, without continued observation, is not so easily ascertained. By comparison of the table and diagram, which do not pretend to more than moderate accuracy, I think it will be evident that nothing more than a brief scrutiny in the telescope will be necessary (using the dimensions of the ball or ring mentally as a scale), to identify pretty easily the respective satellites. Of course any point of light which may be in the field of view, yet obviously out of the delineated orbits, must be set down either as the distant satellite Iapetus, or as a fixed star. If the former, he will be detected in two or three nights' observation by his slow orbital change of position; and the intrusion of stars of nearly equal magnitudes with the satellites, within their orbits, is not so frequent as to give much trouble.

Titan, as his name implies, is much larger than any of the others; it can be seen with the smallest astronomical telescope, and therefore may be instantly recognised. Rhea is generally the next in magnitude, but very much fainter. Dione and Tethys are smaller still; but often interchanging in apparent brightness, as they happen to be situated with respect to their apparent distances from the edge of the ring—the splendour of the planet having a powerful effect in diminishing the visibility of the closer satellites at their nearest approach.

In the present position of the planet, Tethys, when passing its poles, north or south, requires a fine state of atmosphere and a powerful telescope—e.g., a 6 or 7-inch achromatic, or a 9-inch Newtonian, to show it well. The recently discovered satellite Hyperion is not to be assailed except by the highest class of telescopes existing. Enceladus is a valuable test for a pretty high class of telescopes. Roughly speaking, this satellite requires, at its greatest elongation, a telescope of twice the diameter of that which suffices to show Tethys in the same position. And Mimas requires twice the diameter of that which suffices for Enceladus; indeed, it must be placed in the same category with Hyperion, and perhaps requires even finer definition of the telescope, to prevent irradiation from the planet quite extinguishing the satellite. Therefore, no telescope in which Enceladus is not easily seen under all ordinary circumstances, can be expected to afford even a glimpse of Mimas. Enceladus, I know, has been repeatedly seen with a refractor of 6½-inch aperture, and with a Newtonian reflector of nine inches aperture; but these may be taken as extreme cases, and the telescopes are, perhaps, *chefs d'œuvre* of their respective artists.

If a diagram be made of the positions of suspected satellites on any evening, and a comparison with the drawing here given leaves any doubt whatever of their identity, the table of periods compared with the diagram of the next observation will probably at once resolve it.

Starfield, 28th Nov., 1853.

WM. LASSELL.

DOUBLE FOG-BOW.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

OCHTERTYRE, CRIEFF, N.B., 29th Nov., 1853.

I ENCLOSE a pen-and-ink Sketch to explain the phenomenon known as the "Spectre of the Brocken," which I had an opportunity of witnessing in great perfection a few days ago, on the ridge of "Beuchoinneach"—a hill of 3000 feet altitude, in this neighbourhood.

A beautiful double "Fog-bow" was formed on the driving clouds; the colours of the inner bow very bright and beautiful, but not so bright as in the rainbow, and wanting the gradations of the lighter tints, red and indigo alone being visible. The inner Bow appeared as if about eighty yards distant, and about thirty feet in diameter. Every now and then my shadow was strongly and distinctly projected on the misty clouds, as shown in the Sketch, and apparently at a much greater distance than the arches.



DOUBLE FOG-BOW, SEEN NEAR OCHTERTYRE, N.B.

As I believe this phenomenon has been rarely observed, your insertion of the enclosed Sketch may interest some of your readers.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. KEITH MURRAY.



THE CORPORATION OF LONDON.—CITY IMPROVEMENTS.

The first care of a great Municipality should be devoted to the health and convenience of the people: not alone of those who constantly reside within the circle of a circumscribed area, but also of those who, either from necessity or curiosity, are induced to traverse its streets. The condition of the people and their peculiar habits are written as clearly in the architecture and arrangement of the streets of a city as in its most elaborate records. What was considered sufficient to meet the necessities of the metropolis three hundred years ago would be altogether inadequate to meet the exigencies of the present day. Narrow lanes and crooked ways presented little or no obstacle to ordinary traffic when those who could not walk were carried in chairs, and when loads too heavy for human shoulders were borne by pack-horses. The introduction of wheeled carriages created a new necessity and demanded a wider space, while every increase of the number required a further expansion. Within thirty years the population of London has nearly doubled. Cabs, which superseded the old lumbering hackney-coaches, have been more than quadrupled; while omnibuses—of which we have traversed the streets of London daily more than three thousand—were, a few years ago, unknown. All other conveyances have been multiplied in a like proportion; yet the Corporation of London has, with a pertinacity peculiarly its own, from time to time determined, that what answered the purpose of the people when George I. began his reign ought to satisfy the liege subjects of Victoria I. Cheap-side has existed for ages, yet King William-street is no wider; and the last great effort of the Improvement Committee—New Cannon-street—was limited to fifty feet in width, against the advice and better judgment of the able architect, whose opinion was surely worth some attention. More than once the question of width was raised; and more than once did the single vote of the chairman decide against the highest and best authority. This New Cannon-street is considerably over fifty feet wide in some parts; but such deviations from the prescribed limit only occur where the friendly curve of an old street tends to overcome the original blunder, and demonstrates the want of foresight in those who limited the width to fifty feet.

Paving, as we have done, slowly and carefully over the districts on which the City is exerting its genius, under the guidance of the Committee already referred to, we observe that, where the new street falls into St. Paul's Churchyard, there is left a wedge-like piece of ground—bounded by Old Change on the east, the Churchyard on the north, and the new street on the south—the point of the wedge being westward, as if indicating the position where at present is seated a Commission, the only hope of the citizens. The point of the wedge is rounded off by kerbstones; and the streets on either side are being paved. From all this we infer that the small wedge of ground is to be let or sold for building purposes. We are further confirmed in this opinion by reference to a discussion in the Court of Common Council, where it was promised to hold the land for three months, to enable the Bridge House Committee to report on the project of a new bridge. If that report should be favourable, the land will be required to form a suitable approach; if unfavourable, we presume the land will be immediately covered by some gigantic building, to match the huge pile opposite, and thus close up for ever one of the finest views of our grand Cathedral. This is no small matter dependent on the whim or caprice of any bridge projector or city improver. This is a matter for the citizens at large; and if they are pusillanimous, we appeal to the Board of Works, or whatever department of the Government attends to such matters, to step in and prevent what will be, if our fears are fulfilled, a monstrous mistake. The City authorities must not at the present moment presume too much, nor imagine that a work like that referred to will pass unnoticed. The area is small, but to cover it with any building, however beautiful in itself, would never be excused. To show the propriety of these observations, based upon the public report of their own proceedings, we need only walk a hundred yards northward, and there we shall find a block of buildings standing between the Post-office and St. Paul's, and shutting out from St. Martin's-le-Grand every vestige of the Cathedral but its cross, which gleams hopefully through these City fogs. One of the houses of the block referred to has been vacated, and is pulled down to be rebuilt. The effect of the majestic dome of the Cathedral, as seen through this narrow chink, is so imposing, that the wakeful body of the Commissioners of Sewers, have stayed the works, with the declared object of endeavouring to purchase the whole, and thus lay open a view of our metropolitan church, and show off to great advantage the exquisite proportions of the Post-office. If this be accomplished, as we hope it will be, no finer view will exist in any city in the world.

But mark the disadvantage of divided jurisdiction in the central authorities. While one section of the Corporation is wisely taking advantage of a slight matter to effect a grand improvement, another section of the Corporation—the Improvement Committee, *par excellence*—is meditating the construction of a house, or of houses, the effect of which would be an eyesore as great as, or greater than, that which the Commissioners of Sewers are attempting to demolish. To all who take interest in such matters, and especially to the Government authorities, we advise a visit to the spots referred to.

One of the witnesses examined by the Royal Commissioners has unequivocally expressed his opinion that the City authorities were incapable of grappling with a vast improvement, and referred to their burrowing behind other thoroughfares, relieving isolated parts, and crowding others, instead of boldly carrying out what the common sense of the public, backing the opinion of the City architect has declared—namely, that the greatest public street improvement that can be effected—relieving as it would the gorged streets of Ludgate-hill, Fleet-street, Newgate-street, and Holborn—is the opening up of a new street from Cheap-side to Fetter-lane (crossing Farringdon-street by a viaduct), where it would meet the new street laid down by the Government, and thus open up a great line of traffic east and west, nearly straight, and almost on a level. While the City contemptuously taboos a plan so simple, and wastes its treasures in dark places and out-of-the-way corners, it is gratifying to observe the energy with which the Government are pressing forward this great metropolitan improvement. In the next session of Parliament it is their purpose, as advertised, to seek powers to complete their share of the work forthwith; and we presume that their portion of the work will be finished before that of the City is begun.

Advocates as we are for the continuance of a system of representative municipal government, we cannot but regret the want of intelligent activity in those who are placed in power by the people to administer their affairs. Nor can we avoid contrasting the sleepy progress of public works in London with the dazzling rapidity of such works in other European cities. But we need not go from home for examples. Would the members of the unreformed corporation of London visit the reformed boroughs of Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, and Liverpool, and take a passing peep at the towns of Bradford, Halifax, and Huddersfield, they would find that these places have sloughed their antiquated skins; and that, in a space of time less than the City of London has occupied in making New Cannon-street, those wonderful towns have been almost entirely rebuilt of the finest stone.

Not only is the City of London accused of extravagance in her remuneration of officers; but, when we go into details, the graver charge of incapacity seems fully established. The blame is, in some respects, attributable to certain persons occupying the chairs of certain committees for a number of years together, being, in fact, essentially per-

petual chairmen. They thus obtain a larger amount of information than most of the members. They are, indeed, the "Perpetual Grands" of their pet committees; and few, if any, of the members dare venture to oppose their opinion, or question their judgment. By such means the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of pounds is determined by an individual will; and the wisdom or folly of improvements depends upon the chance elevation of a popular person, who may or may not be the fittest for the exercise of such powers and the control of such enormous sums of money.

We speak not of individuals, we speak of the system; and if the Corporation would stand well with the public, or as well as it can, with its many alleged imperfections, we would advise the Committees to depose those puffed up gentlemen, and open their chairs to the wholesome influence of annual change. The desire of each to excel his predecessor would introduce a competitive principle which could not fail to benefit the citizens.

Having thus glanced at the Streets within the City, we shall, next week, look at the River and Bridges, and see whether in anything we really can find something worthy of commendation.

IRELAND.

THE ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY sent, last week, as usual, to the Smithfield Club Show a splendid collection of Irish-grown farm produce; with a specimen of butter from the farm of that enterprising Irishman, Mr. William Dargan. The collection of roots are the residue of the society's annual autumnal exhibition of farm produce. The Royal Dublin society is one of the most ancient in Europe, being established by Royal charter in 1731; and the idea of sending collections annually to the Smithfield Club Show originated with the Earl of Clarendon, when Viceroy of Ireland, and President of the Society; and it has since received the warm support and sanction of his successors. It has had the effect of exercising a very beneficial influence over the value of property in Ireland; it is a practical means of directing attention to the excellence of her soil, when cultivated with skill and experience. The society occupied stands Nos. 96, 97, and 98, neatly surmounted by a banner representing "Hibernia" with the motto, "Nostra plena laboris." The following noblemen and gentlemen are amongst the exhibitors:—The Earl of Charlemont, the Earl of Antrim; the Marquis of Drogheda, Moore Abbey; the Right Hon. Frederick Shaw, Recorder of Dublin; Sir Robert Shaw, Bart.; William Dargan, Esq.; J. J. Vernon, Esq.; Thomas Gresham, Esq.; Thomas Ball, Esq.; R. C. Wade, Esq.; Joseph Radcliffe, Esq.; L.L.D.; William Smith, Esq.; Charles Putland, Esq.; Rev. Sir Hunt Walsh;—McClintock, Esq.; the Guardians of the Enniscomorthy and North Dublin Unions, and A. J. Hawkins, Esq. His Excellency the Earl of St. Germans, accompanied by L. E. Foote and R. Harrison (hon. secretary of the society), Esqrs., honoured the exhibition in the Society's Museum in Dublin with a visit, prior to the roots being removed to London. His Excellency expressed himself much pleased with the collection, and examined the different lots with great interest. The curator of the agricultural department of the society was present at the Smithfield Show, to give every necessary information to visitors.

NEW MAGISTRATE FOR ANTRIM.—Lord Dungannon, it is stated, has just been appointed to the commission of the peace for the county of Antrim, "without any solicitation on the part of his Lordship." From the exultant tone of the local journals, it would appear that this rather simple circumstance is regarded in the light of a great party triumph.

NEW LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN.—At a meeting of the corporation, held on Monday, Sir Edward McDonnell, chairman of the Great Southern and Western Railway Company, was unanimously elected Lord Mayor of Dublin for the year 1854.

It is stated that George Roe, Esq., Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Great Exhibition, accompanied by Mr. Dargan, waited upon the Lord-Lieutenant a few days ago, on the part of the Committee, expressing their anxious wish that his Excellency would recommend the two Commissioners of the Dublin Police, Mr. O'Ferrall and Col. Browne, to the proper quarter, for the Civil Commission of the Bath.

ACCIDENT TO GENERAL SIR C. McDONALD.—Last week there was a brilliant assemblage at Kilkenny, where the hounds met at eleven o'clock. Lord Desart, Lord Vaux, Sir J. Power, Mr. Brian, Mr. Bellew, Mr. Vansittart, Captain Ponsonby, &c. were amongst the number; but a gloom was cast over all by a sad accident. As General McDonald was riding up the street, a horse kicked him in the thigh, and broke his leg badly. Considering his late illness, the accident is looked upon as dangerous.

THE CLARE UNIONS.—It appears by the returns from Clare that the condition of the unions in that county is improved. In Kilrush the guardians have a balance of £440 in their favour; in Kiladysart the balance to the credit of the union is £471; and in Scariff (which had been in such dreadful destitution) the guardians have a balance of £1653 to meet their current liabilities.

EVICITION.—The *Galway Vindicator*, in referring to the recent eviction of four hundred persons from an estate in that county, mentions, by way of contrast, that an English proprietor, Mr. Thorngate, who lately purchased an estate in the same neighbourhood, did not disturb a single tenant nor unroof a single cottage; but that, on the contrary, "appreciating the industry and honesty of the poor exiled people, Mr. Thorngate has given to some of them holdings and houses on his own estate."

THE LATE RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—In the case of "M'Nally against the Great Southern and Western Railway," on the case of the accident at Straffan, has found a verdict for the plaintiff—£1000 to the widow, and £833 to each of the three children of the deceased M'Nally—making in all £3500 damages. In the case of John Monbu against the same company, the jury gave £50 damages, for injury received in his leg on the occasion of the accident. The third case, of Ellen Farrell against the company, was settled out of court.

NEW ZEALAND FLAX.—The excess of silica spoken of as the cause of brittleness does not appear in the analysis, but I think the non-fibrous portion of the *Phormium tenax* is more incorporated with the fibre than in the *Linum usitatissimum*, and this combination may partly account for the brittle nature hitherto generally attributed to the fibre. If the silica exists in combination with the alkalies potash or soda, which I presume may be the case, I do not see any reason why such a silicate should not be soluble in hot water. Acting on this idea, I have tried the effect of boiling the leaves and rolling afterwards; in fact, adopting a system similar to Watt's patent, which, though not yet perfectly applied to Irish flax so as to please the linen manufacturers, may eventually be successful, and, indeed, appears the most likely way of managing this New Zealand flax. As yet I have no result to lay before you of these experiments, except that I deprecate the use of much alkali to soften the plant, or the use of fire heat in drying it, having found both add greatly to the brittleness of the fibre in the green state.—*Correspondent of the Journal of the Society of Arts.*

SPECULATION IN MELBOURNE.—A Melbourne correspondent writes:—"A Polish Yankee Jew, who came here about twelve months ago without a shilling, commenced a restaurant on credit, and has so marvelously succeeded that he is at this moment in treaty with the owner of the Royal Hotel to take an establishment, and offers the following terms: £10,000 to the present tenant for the two years of his lease still to run; £1000 to the owner for his consent to the exchange; £1000 a year for the two years, and £4500 for five years after; and to spend £5000 in improvements. This is another fact. The speculator is to make the place the best hotel in Melbourne; and if he does he may clear any money almost, for nothing is wanted more than a first-rate place of that kind."

SUPPLY OF PERUVIAN GUANO.—Despatches from the Admiral commanding in the *Pacific*, contain most interesting and important information relative to the quantity of guano remaining on the Chincha Islands. The quantity stated to be still available is considerably under that given in the news brought by the *Pacific* mail just arrived. The quantity now estimated from the examination made by Mr. McIntosh, naval instructor, is 8,000,000 tons; while the accounts brought by the mail state it to be 25,000,000. Admiral Moreby, however, states, as the result of his data, in which he says he has confidence, that the islands will be exhausted of the guano that would pay freight, or be saleable in the English market, in eight or nine years.

TOLERATION IN PIEDMONT.—In Piedmont, which ten years ago was, in respect of religious liberty, something worse than the Tuscany of to-day, an Israelite College was opened at Acqui on the 25th ult., in the presence of the Intendant of the province, the syndic of the town, the rector and professors of the Christian College, and all the Israelite population of the town. The institution has been founded by a rich Israelite, M. Levi Samuel, who, having no family, bequeathed his whole fortune to trustees for that purpose. The public were addressed in appropriate speeches by the Rabbi, the Rector of the Christian College, and the Intendant of the province.

FALSE ALARM.—A paragraph with the startling heading, "Dreadful Murder of a Roman Catholic Priest and Three Ladies," appeared in the *Sun* of Saturday; but on inquiry at the scene of the supposed tragedy (Sutton-place, near Guildford), it turned out that the statement was entirely without foundation.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

The Queen has conferred the honour of Knighthood upon Captain Stephen Bartlett Lakeman, late commander of Lakeman's Waterkloof Rangers. [A Portrait and Memoir of this distinguished soldier will be found in No. 651.]

The imports of specie last week were but to a limited amount, £260,000, whilst the exports were to the large amount of nearly one million sterling.

Sir Joseph Copley, Bart., of Spotborough-hall, Doncaster, has presented a second donation of £50 to the Devonport Sailors' Home.

From letters received from Italy, we learn that the health of the Marquis of Normanby has considerably improved since his departure from this country. The noble Marquis and Marchioness are not expected home before May.

A boiler is now being constructed at the works of M. Marcellis, at La Bovenne, near Liège, for a steam-engine of 1400-horse power. It is the largest boiler ever made, being 100 feet in diameter in the inside, and 12 feet in height. Its weight is 15 tons.

At a recent special meeting of the subscribers to the Leeds Commercial News-room, it was resolved by a majority of 135 to 90, "That the room be closed on Sundays throughout the day." This resolution was moved by Mr. Edward Baines, and seconded by Mr. Alderman Richardson.

The Earl of Clarendon has issued instructions to Mr. Drummond Hay, Consul-General at Tangier, with a view to procure greater commercial facilities in Morocco than those which at present exist.

The Hon. G. S. Stafford Jerningham, now secretary to the Embassy at Paris, is appointed her Majesty's Minister at Stockholm, in place of Sir Edmund Lyons, Bart., G.C.B.

Barrows, the man who is in prison charged with the murder of Charity Glenniser, near Leighton Buzzard, has confessed the crime.

The municipal council of Genoa has subscribed for shares to the amount of 6,000,000 fr., towards the construction of the Lukmanier Railway.

The Irish "Catholic University" has just received a contribution of £1000 to its funds, sent by one of its collectors in Philadelphia.

The Duke and Duchess of Northumberland are dispensing their hospitalities at Rome to a select circle of English and foreign fashionables. Their Graces are not expected to return until early next spring.

The Duke of Belluno, a member of the French Senate, died at Paris on Saturday last.

The ceremony of commencing the Blairgowrie branch of the Scottish and Midland Junction Railway took place last week at the intended terminus, at Blairgowrie, on the property of Mr. Allan Macpherson, whose lady cut the first turf.

The cold in Paris, says *Galignani*, was on Friday nearly half a degree Centigrade greater than on the preceding day. M. Chevalier's thermometer marked, at six in the morning, 3 deg. 8.10th of Centigrade below zero (25½ Fahrenheit).

Lord Benholme is the judicial title assumed by Mr. Hercules Robertson, who succeeds Lord Fullerton as one of the Judges of the Court of Session in Scotland.

The workmen engaged at the Ebbw Vale Works of the British Iron Company have struck for an advance of wages, and the result has been the furnaces are blown out.

Count Paul Esterhazy—who, since the unhappy events of 1849 in Hungary, has been compelled to absent himself from his native land, and has spent the chief portion of his exile in England—has recently received permission to return home.

There have been further riots in Sligo, arising out of the continued exportation of potatoes from that port to the English markets.

At the Central Criminal Court, which was concluded last week, no less than 33 persons were charged and found guilty of uttering base coin.

The inhabitants of Staleybridge have memorialised Lord Aberdeen to consider their claims to a seat in Parliament in the next Reform Bill. They state that the population is about 25,000, and that upwards of £60,000 is deposited in the Savings Bank.

An accident occurred on Tuesday week at Cowden-heath Colliery, near Dunfermline, five men having been precipitated to the bottom of the shaft, a depth of 216 feet. Three men were killed on the spot, a fourth died the next day, and the recovery of the fifth is hopeless.

The Emperor of Russia has sent the insignia of Chevalier of the Order of St. Vladimir to M. Struve, the celebrated Russian astronomer.

A firm near Bristol has just received an order for twelve iron chapels, to be exported to Australia by the Roman Catholics of this country.

Zephaniah Williams, one of the Welsh Chartist rioters, who was transported some years since to New South Wales, has just sent home for forty colliers to work in his extensive coal mines.

Glasgow is about to enjoy the advantage of Saturday evening concerts, for the working-classes, on a very cheap scale.

M. de Lamartine, whose health was for some time in a very precarious state, has now so far recovered as to be able to resume his literary labours.

The two senior Masters in Chancery, Mr. Senior and Sir W. Horne, have been released by the Lord Chancellor, under the powers of the Masters in Chancery Act.

Within the last three years a borough rate has been unknown in Great Yarmouth, the revenue always showing a balance on the right side. Quite a model town!

A Spanish woman named Isabella Chava, died at Seville last week, aged 114 years and 25 days. She preserved her physical and intellectual faculties to within a few days of her decease.

The total exports of Irish whiskey for the month of November reach the unusually large quantity of 90,000 gallons.

The mate of the English brig the *Margaret*, which is lying at Havre, recently fell to the bottom of the hold, and was so dreadfully injured, that he expired in less than an hour.

The packet ship *E. Z.*, which sailed from Liverpool for New York on the 13th ult., put back to Liverpool last week, having encountered a gale, which swept the decks, and washed overboard thirteen of the passengers and five of the crew.

The Belgian ship *Atalante*, which sailed from Antwerp in 185 for Sidney, arrived there from Batavia. The whole of the crew having deserted, the captain was obliged to procure a Malay crew, and the vessel has arrived home with forty Malays on board.

It has been recently decided in the Cambridge County Court, that a master has no more right to open a servant's box on her discharge from his service, than the domestic has to ransack her employer's desk.

The Marquis of Hertford is building a splendid mansion in the Boulevard des Italiens. The site selected is that on which formerly stood the well-known Bains Chinois, and the Parisians have denominated it a "Petit Palais."

In consequence of the late disturbances in Blackburn, a company of the 34th Regiment, numbering sixty men, has been this week stationed in the town, by order of the Home Secretary.

The Hon. W. C. Eliot (son of the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland), now Unpaid Attaché at Lisbon, is appointed Second Paid Attaché to her Majesty's Mission at Berlin.

The Saturday half-holiday movement, says the *Edinburgh News*, is progressing towards universal adoption in that city.

During a recent riot in Kirkcudbright, a young woman of the name of Barclay was so much alarmed at the noise that with a shriek she leaped on the floor in a state of madness. She died the following morning.

George Atkinson, Esq., of the Inner Temple, and of the northern circuit, has been sworn in as one of her Majesty's serjeants at law. He gave rings with the motto, "Tout temps prist."

An actress, Miss Helena Gage, was shot in New Orleans on the 15th ult., by a French school-master, named Bedford, for refusing to elope with him. The murderer afterwards killed himself.

In consequence of a domestic affliction, the head-master has suspended the representation of the Westminster play for this year, by the expressed wish and desire of the Queen's scholars.

The *Giornale di Roma*, of the 26th ult., states that large quantities of corn are daily arriving in the Papal States from Leghorn.

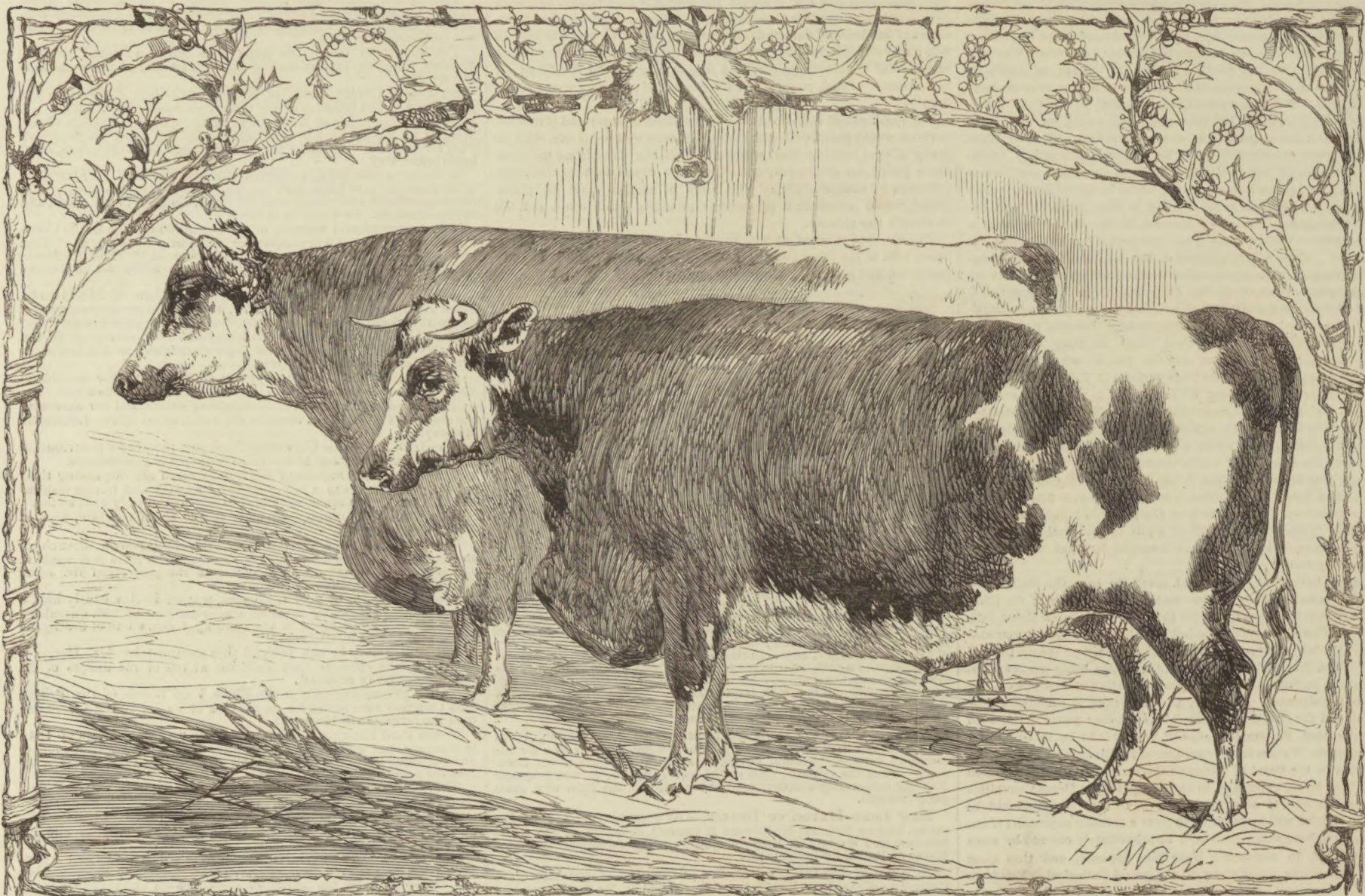
The Claddagh (Galway) trawling-boats have been remarkably successful during the last week. The quantity of plaice caught by a single boat in two days' cruise in the bay realised £7 4s.

Timber-sawing in Van Diemen's Land is more remunerative on the average than gold-digging in Australia. Orders have been sent to England for fifty saw-mills.

At Melbourne, at the end of August, cabbages were from 14s. to 20s. a dozen; carrots, 6s.; butter 4s. 6d. pound; and cucumbers, 1s. 6d. each. Wages were somewhat in proportion—blacksmiths, £6 a week; bullock-drivers on the road, from £3 to £4 a week, with rations, and so on with other employments.

The 2nd of December is a right Imperial day: that day, twenty-eight years ago, the Emperor Nicholas came to the throne; that day, fifty-seven years ago, the Emperor Francis Joseph came to the throne; that day, one year ago, the Emperor Louis Napoleon came to the throne; that day, forty-eight years ago, the Emperor of France fought the battle of Austerlitz.

SMITHFIELD CLUB PRIZE CATTLE.



CLASS 10, NO. 62.—MR. STRATTON'S SHORT-HORN OX, FIRST PRIZE, £25, AND GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS.

CLASS 9, NO. 52.—MR. STRATTON'S SHORT-HORN OX, FIRST PRIZE, £25, AND SILVER MEDAL.

THE Exhibition of Stock of this Club opened on Tuesday morning under as favourable auspices as on any previous year; the entries being above the average in number, and of a quality that has never been surpassed on any previous occasion. There have been, it is true, higher class specimens of Herefords, Short-horns, and Devons; but in no instance has the general character of the collections of animals been more deserving of commendation than this year: there was less to astonish and surprise, but much more to commend and admire.

On one point of real importance a most decided advance was observable, namely, in the absence of those huge masses of fat that formerly were so characteristic of the Baker-street Exhibition—the leading feature being mere fat, without regard to the manner in which it was laid on, where, or under what circumstances; on this score there was now no reason for complaint, the proper proportions and symmetrical forms of the well-bred ani-

mals not being lost in the humps and ridges of fat with which it was formerly the practice to overload them.

So good was the general character of the stock, that the judges had no little difficulty in deciding upon which to award some of the prizes; and it was not until all the tests of touch, and the careful estimation of points had been applied, that judgment was given.

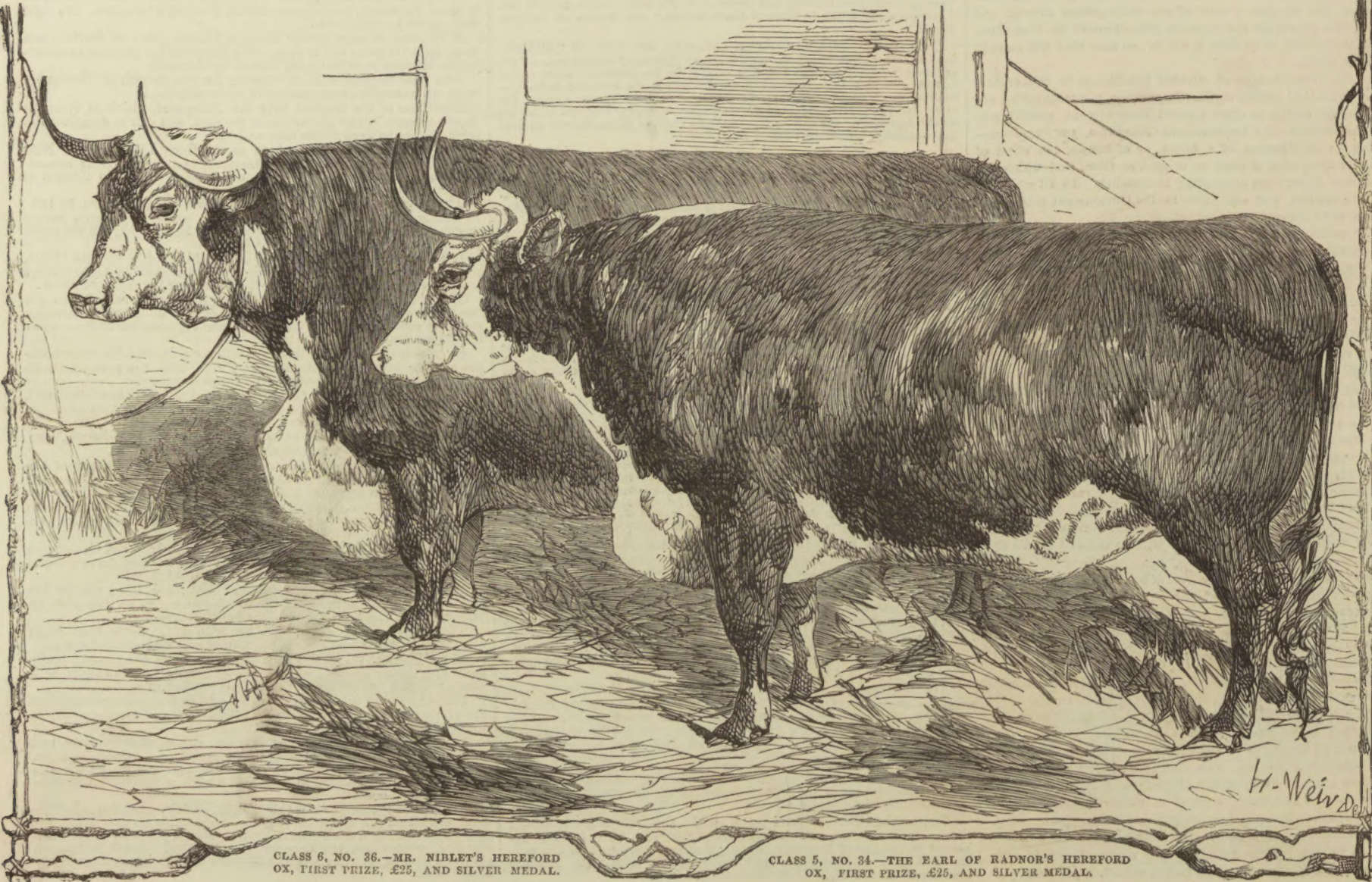
The Short-horns carried off the two gold medals competed for in the cattle class.

Mr. Stratton, who obtained two prizes last year, again carried off the prize for the best ox in any class. His steer is a most beautiful specimen of the breed, carrying an immense weight of beef, yet so evenly fattened and in such excellent proportions, as to cause the animal to appear less fat than it really is. It weighs 220 stones. Until last year it was fed solely on grass and a little meal; latterly, oil-cake has been added.

One of the most remarkable animals in the collection, and that came in for the largest share of attention from the more curious and less initiated class of visitors, was a huge short-horned ox, from the stock of Mr. Hayter, of Linsdale, near Leighton Buzzard, fed and exhibited by Sir Harry Verney, Bart., of Claydon House, near Winslow, Bucks. It is five years and eight months old; it is 18 hands high, 6½ feet from tip to shoulder, 3 feet across the hips, 10 feet in girth behind the shoulders, 12 feet in length from nose to rump, and 4 feet 5 inches from chine to brisket; it weighs about 300 stones. It is by no means a finely-proportioned animal, and is remarkable only for its extraordinary size.

Of the Devons, the finest specimen was a cow, fourteen years old, exhibited by Lord Leicester. Lord Portman also obtained a prize for a beautifully-proportioned Devon cow.

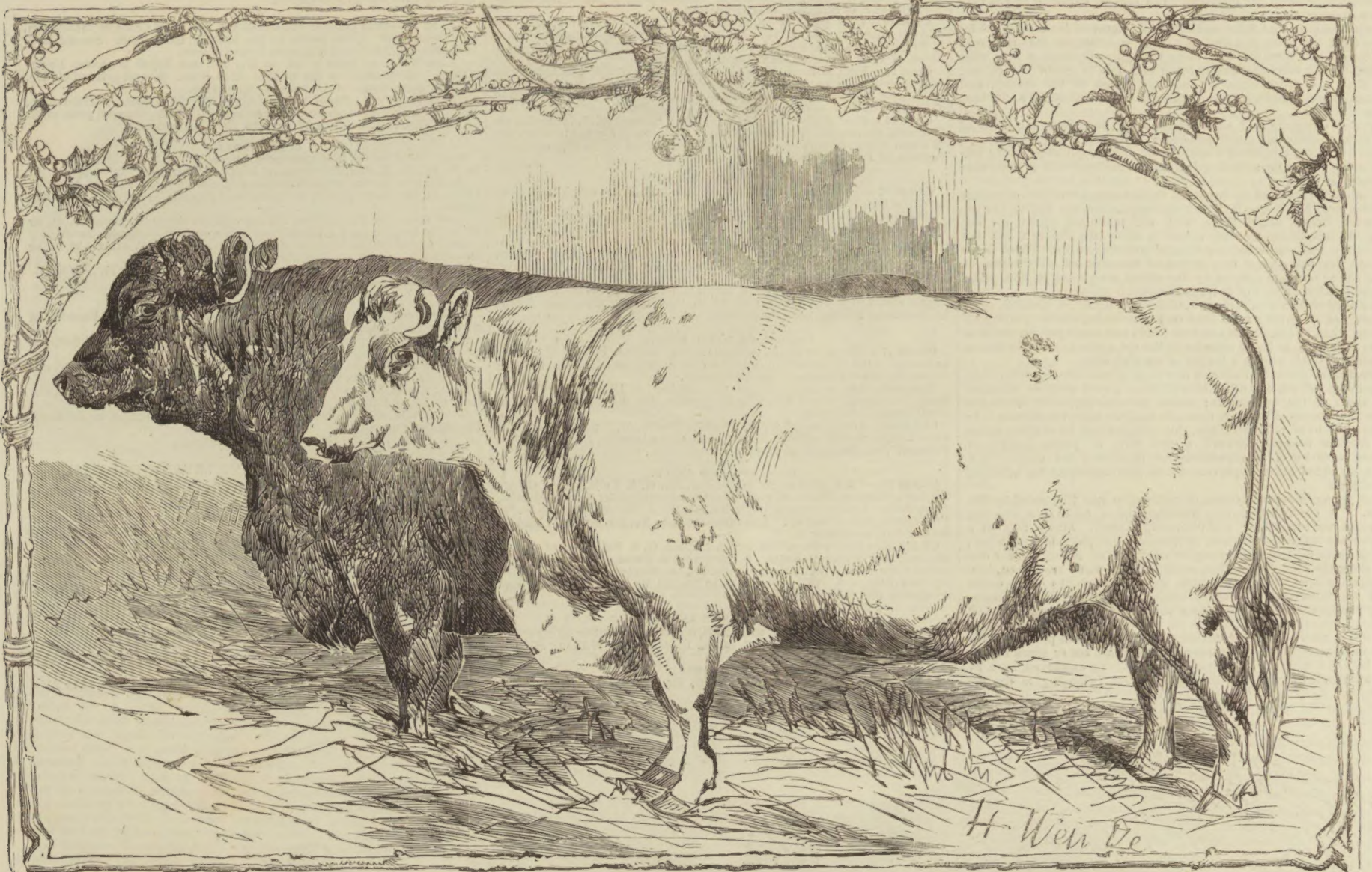
The Herefords were considered by good judges to be particu-



CLASS 6, NO. 36.—MR. NIBLET'S HEREFORD OX, FIRST PRIZE, £25, AND SILVER MEDAL.

CLASS 5, NO. 34.—THE EARL OF RADNOR'S HEREFORD OX, FIRST PRIZE, £25, AND SILVER MEDAL.

S M I T H F I E L D C L U B P R I Z E C A T T L E .



CLASS 13, NO. 100.—THE REV. MR. ARKWRIGHT'S SCOT, PRIZE £10.

larly fine this year. Lord Radnor obtained a prize for an eight months old steer of this class.
Of the West Highland and polled Galloway the specimens were not equal to those of former years.
Mr. Farrer, of Kempstone Lodge, exhibited an excellent cross between a Durham and a Galloway Scot.
In Sheep, the Duke of Richmond carried all before him, and the Goodwood short-woolled breeds will be raised in character in consequence; his display of Southdowns being unusually fine. There were also several other pens of short-woolled sheep, well deserving of commendation.
Mr. S. Foljambe obtained the gold medal for the best specimens of the long-woolled classes.
There were also several pens of excellent crosses.
Our remarks as to moderate fattening do not apply to the Pigs exhibited this year in Baker-street, for several exhibitors seem to have studied to fatten to the highest point to which the animal

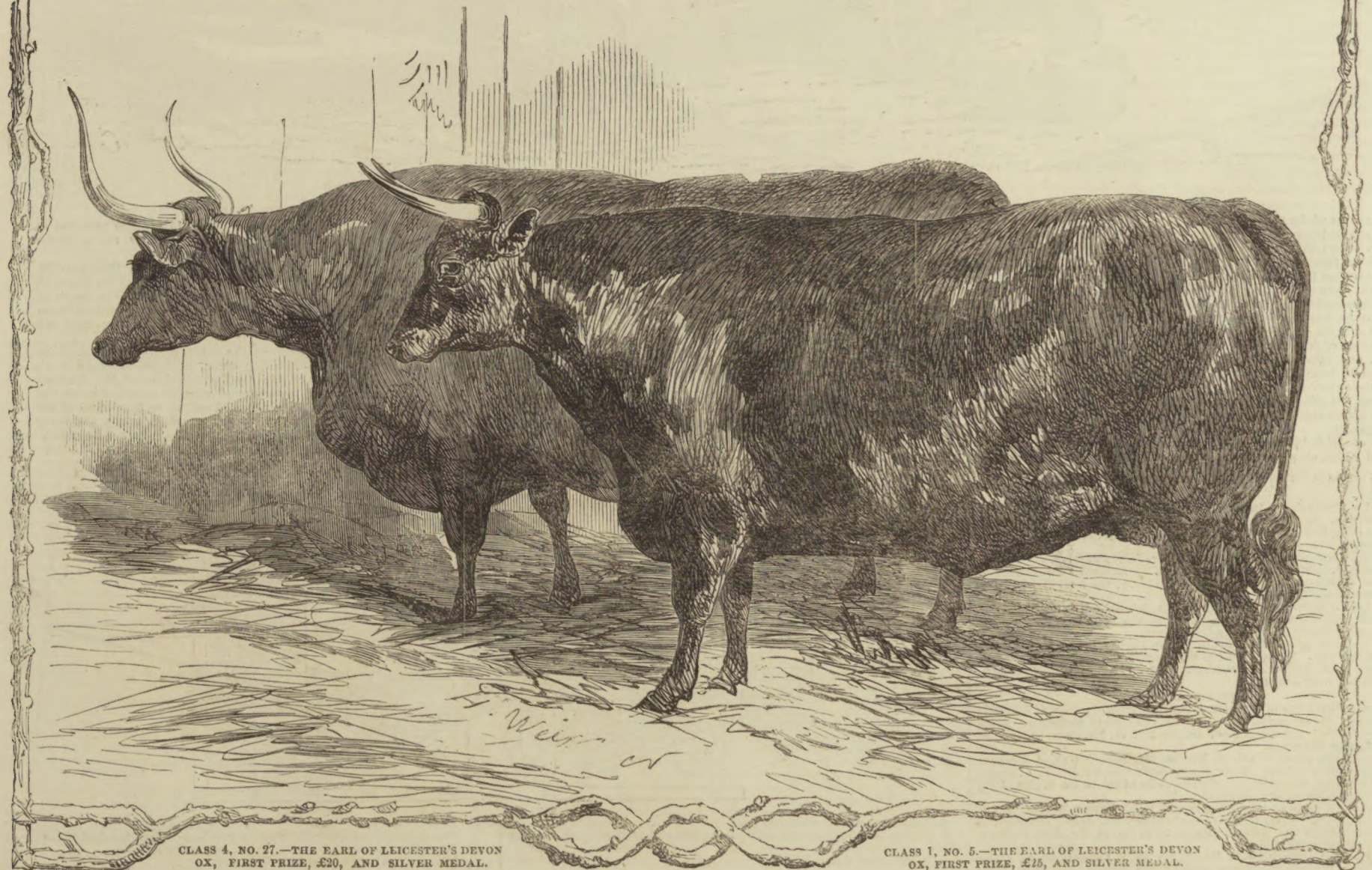
CLASS 12, NO. 81.—MR. H. SMITH'S SHORT-HORN, FIRST PRIZE, £20, AND GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS.

can attain and live. The consequence is that, in several pens, the unwieldy monsters might be seen snoring away, with their little noses propped up on small blocks of wood, without which precaution the poor animals would have been suffocated with their own fat. Such a death actually occurred to one of the pigs (exhibited by Lord Radnor) on Monday.
Prince Albert carried off the prize for a pen of Suffolk pigs.
Mr. Betts, of Preston Hall, also obtained a prize for hogs. One of these, a Suffolk and Berkshire cross, fatted to an immense weight, was perhaps as fine a specimen as any in the show.
In one pen was a pure Berkshire hog of immense size; and in another, a Chinese specimen of great excellence.

MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS.

This department was unusually well represented this year: all the galleries, and every available spot that could be appropriated, was closely packed with the innumerable contrivances

now in use by agriculturalists for economising labour and facilitating their operations. A much larger number of implements, &c., were exhibited than on any previous occasion, and in greater variety; most of the older, and long-tried, with improvements and modifications to increase their efficiency or diminish the cost, and many ingenious inventions of a novel character.
Mr. Garratt, as usual, had a large stand closely stowed with the drills of all kinds, for which his house is famous, as well as an immense variety of other machines; amongst which a new reaping machine is the most conspicuous; it is the invention of Mr. Atkins, an American gentleman of great mechanical skill. The machine much resembles the most recently-constructed on the M'Cormick principle; but, added to it, is what is called an automaton arm or rake; the action of this rake is as follows:—It first rakes up the cut grain from off the platform, and presses it against a toothed plate, between which and the rake it is firmly held; and then swinging round the quarter of a circle behind,



CLASS 4, NO. 27.—THE EARL OF LEICESTER'S DEVON OX, FIRST PRIZE, £20, AND SILVER MEDAL.

CLASS 1, NO. 5.—THE EARL OF LEICESTER'S DEVON OX, FIRST PRIZE, £15, AND SILVER MEDAL.

the rake separates from the toothed plate, and the sheaf is deposited at the side of the platform ready for binding. This action is repeated in measured intervals, proportioned to the advance of the machine and the deposit of grain on the platform. The careful handling by the rake effects a saving over raking by hand.

Messrs. Ransome and Sims exhibited an improved bean mill, of ingenious form, the teeth of a steel mill being so arranged that they may be removed when worn out, and, being triangular in shape, a new edge replaces the old one; the farmer being thus able to renew the cutting action of his mill three times without application to the maker, and even then he can procure a new set of teeth for the machine, at the cost of a few shillings.

Dray and Company had an immense stand, containing all kinds of useful articles, large and small, adapted to agricultural requirements.

Messrs. Hensby exhibited a selection of drills, combining many improved contrivances for adjusting the various motions with greater ease and exactness.

Mr. Cro-skill exhibited an improved Bell's reaping machine, or rather a machine modified from all those previously before the public, the general arrangement being Bell's, with the travelling apron for delivering the straw; the cutting action is much like Hussey's, but the action of the knife is something similar to M'Cormick's. There is no doubt but that this reaper is now one of the most effective in use, as most of the advantages claimed by the others are gained in this, while the superior arrangement of Bell's implement is preserved.

A new kind of turnip-cutter was exhibited by Kealy, of London, especially adapted for cutting roots into very thin slices, almost pulping it. The roots, when so cut, are mixed with chaff; and many persons are now adopting that plan, as being superior to the old method. The knife is a single plate of steel, having a jagged or serrated edge.

Messrs. Samuelson exhibited their new digging machine, or rather forking apparatus. It consists of a series of tines, placed on discs attached to the shaft of the implement; these, in revolving, disintegrate the earth, while a series of scrapers clean them of the soil that adheres. In some descriptions of soil, doubtless, this machine may be of great value. Mr. Nichols brought forward a new form of paring plough, or horse-hoe, with novel arrangements for regulating the depth. Mr. Smith also added some improvements in his implement for effecting similar objects.

A plan for an improved system of cultivation was illustrated by Mr. Wilkins. It consists in laying underground a horse-shoe tile, but the reverse way to which it is ordinarily placed. Across this, at a small distance from the bottom, is placed a flat piece full of holes; above this earth is placed, and the plants cultivated. At convenient distances along the line of these tiles small vertical pipes are placed, into which liquid manure is poured, which, rising through the holes under pressure saturates the soil immediately beneath the seed. Extraordinary results are said to have been obtained by the adoption of this plan.

The yard in which the steam-engines are usually placed presented this year an uncommonly busy appearance, no less than six or seven steam-engines being at work in that small space, actively employed, each in driving a thrashing machine of the largest class, belonging to the re-

SHORT HORNS.

CLASS 9.—First prize of 25*l.* to No. 52, Mr. Richard Stratton, of Broad Hinton, near Swindon. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. Richard Stratton, of Broad Hinton, near Swindon. Second prize of 10*l.* to No. 53, Mr. Robert Lynn, of Stroxton, near Grantham.

CLASS 10.—First prize of 25*l.* to No. 62, Mr. Richard Stratton, of Broad Hinton, near Swindon. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. Richard Stratton, of Broad Hinton, near Swindon. Second prize of 10*l.* to No. 61, Mr. Edward Frost, of West Wrating Hall, Linton, Cambridge.

CLASS 11.—First prize of 15*l.* to No. 74, Mr. Joseph Phillips, of Ardington, near Wantage. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. Thomas Garne, of Broadmore, near Northleach. Second prize of 5*l.* to No. 75, Mr. Henry Ambler, of Watkinson-hall, near Halifax.

CLASS 12.—First prize of 20*l.* to No. 81, Mr. Henry Smith, of the Grove, Cropwell Butler, near Bingham, Notts. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. William Smith, of West Rasen. Second prize of 10*l.* to No. 89, Mr. Henry Roberts, of Paxford, near Bloxley, Worcester.

SCOTCH, WELSH, OR IRISH.

CLASS 13.—The prize of 10*l.* to No. 100, the Rev. J. Arkwright, of Mark-hall, Harlow, Essex.

CLASS 14.—The prize of 5*l.* to No. 105, the Earl of Leicester, of Holkham-hall, Norfolk.

OTHER PURE BREEDS.

CLASS 15.—The prize of 10*l.* to No. 107, Mr. J. H. Gurney, of Easton, near Norwich. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. G. S. Kett, of Brooke, Norfolk.

CLASS 16.—The prize of 10*l.* to No. 110, Mr. James Caines, of Chesleboone, near Dorchester. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. James Davis, of Melcombe Horsey, near Dorchester.

CROSS, OR MIXED BREED.

CLASS 17.—The prize of 15*l.* to No. 112, Mr. William Hewer, of Seven-hampton, near Highworth. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. William Hewer, of Sevenhampton, near Highworth.

CLASS 18.—The prize of 15*l.* to No. 114, the Earl of Darnley, of Cobham Hall, Gravesend. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. John Rogers, of Leddick, near Leominster.

CLASS 19.—The prize of 10*l.* to No. 120, Mr. W. M. Farrer, of Kempstone Lodge, near Saffordham. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. Christopher Twiss, of Swardston Hall, Norwich.

LONG-WOOLLED SHEEP.

CLASS 20.—First prize of 20*l.* to No. 145, Mr. G. S. Foljambe, of Osberton-hall, Worksop, Notts. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. G. S. Foljambe, ditto, ditto. Second prize of 10*l.* to No. 147, Mr. J. Mudford, of Hoe-fields, Thurlaston, near Hinckley. Third prize of 5*l.* to No. 148, Mr. R. F. Hall, of Hesley-hall, near Bawtry.

CLASS 21.—First prize of 20*l.* to No. 155, Mr. G. S. Foljambe, of Osberton-hall, near Worksop, Notts. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. G. S. Foljambe, ditto, ditto. Second prize of 10*l.* to No. 151, the Marquis of Exeter, Burghley-park, Stamford. Third prize of 5*l.* to No. 153, Mr. R. L. Bradshaw, Burley-on-the-Hill, Oakham.

LONG-WOOLLED (NOT LEICESTERS).

CLASS 22.—The prize of 10*l.* to No. 160, Mr. William Slatter, of Stratton, near Cirencester. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. William Slatter, ditto, ditto.

CROSS-BRED SHEEP.

CLASS 23.—First prize of 10*l.* to No. 181, Mr. Samuel Druce, of Eyn-

SHORT-WOOLLED (NOT SOUTH-DOWNS).

CLASS 28.—The prize of 10*l.* to 241, Mr. Stephen King, of Old Hayward Farm, Hungerford. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. Stephen King, of Old Hayward Farm, Hungerford.

FIGS.

CLASS 23.—First prize of 10*l.* to No. 259, Mr. John Coate of Hammoon, near Blandford. Silver medal to the breeder, ditto, ditto. Second prize of 5*l.* to No. 267, his Royal Highness Prince Albert.

CLASS 30.—First prize of 10*l.* to No. 281, his Royal Highness Prince Albert. Silver medal to the breeder, ditto, ditto. Second prize of 5*l.* to No. 272, Mr. John Coate, of Hammoon, Blandford.

CLASS 31.—First prize of 10*l.* to No. 284, Mr. John Coate, of Hammoon, Blandford. Silver medal to the breeder, ditto, ditto. Second prize of 5*l.* to No. 287, Mr. E. L. Betts, of Preston Hall, Maidstone.

GOLD MEDALS.

Gold medal for the best steer or ox in classes 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 15, 17, or 18 to No. 62, Mr. Richard Stratton, of Broad Hinton, near Swindon.

Gold medal for the best heifer or cow in classes 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 16, or 19, to No. 81, Mr. Henry Smith, of the Grove, Cropwell Butler, near Bingham, Notts.

Gold medal for the best pen of long-woolled sheep in classes 20, 21, or 22, to No. 145, Mr. G. S. Foljambe, of Osberton-hall, Worksop, Notts.

Gold medal for the best pen of short-woolled sheep in classes 25, 26, or 28, to No. 207, the Duke of Richmond, of Goodwood.

Gold medal for the best pen of pigs in classes 29, 30, or 31, to No. 281 his Royal Highness Prince Albert.

EXTRA STOCK.

Silver medal, for the best beast, to No. 123, Mr. Chas. Barnett, of Stratton-park, Biggleswade, Beds.

Silver medal, for the best long-woolled sheep, to No. 171, Lord Berners of Keythorpe Hall, Tugby, Leicester.

Silver medal, for the best short-woolled sheep, to No. 246, the Duke of Richmond, of Goodwood.

Silver medal, for the best cross-bred sheep, to No. 204, Mr. John Hitchman, of Little Milton, near Wheatley, Oxon.

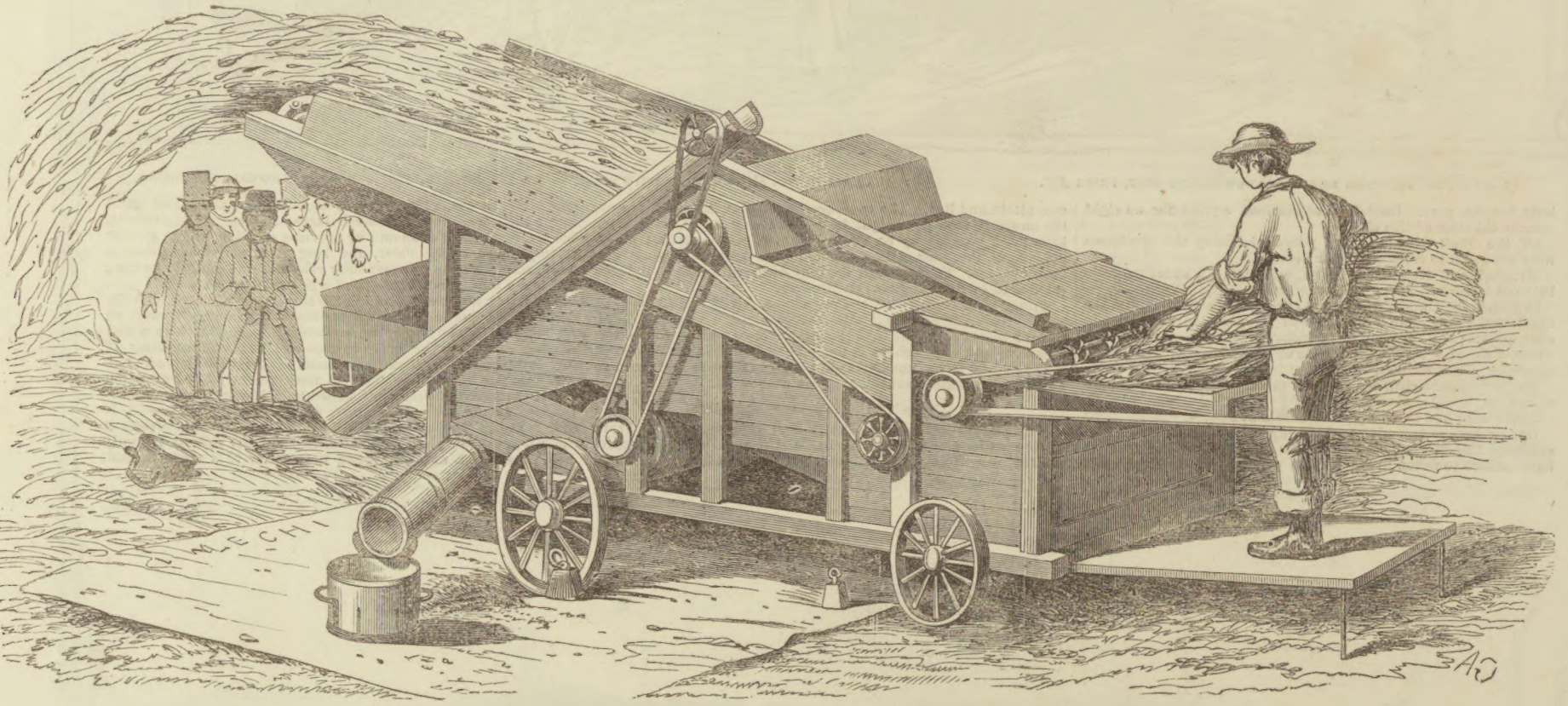
Silver medal, for the best pig, to No. 291, Mr. W. J. Sadler, of Bentham Purton, near Swindon.

THE AMERICAN THRASHING AND SEPARATING MACHINE.

This Machine is the invention of Mr. J. Moffitt, agricultural engineer, of Piqua, Ohio, U.S., who has, in conjunction with Mr. E. H. Knight, of Cincinnati, recently imported a Machine into this country, and has lately made trials of it at Mr. Mechi's farm, at Tiptree, in Essex. A specimen was also exhibited at the Smithfield Club Show.

There appear to be two points of novelty in Mr. Moffitt's Separator. Its chief merit lies in the ingenious manner in which its several parts are arranged and modified to suit different circumstances. The thrashing portion consists of a drum and concave, as in an ordinary English thrashing-machine, but upon the principle known as the peg machine—that is, substituting for the ordinary beaters a series of pegs, so arranged, that, in revolving, they pass similar rows of pegs placed at intervals in the concave which surrounds a considerable portion of the circumference of the drum.

The peg machine is of American origin, having been patented in New



THE AMERICAN THRASHING AND SEPARATING MACHINE.

spective makers of the engines. The American thrashing and separating engine was also placed here, but so out of the way (being stowed into a narrow gateway), that the greatest possible difficulty was experienced by the numerous farmers in getting a sight of it. They are, however, too deeply interested in anything that will more cheaply or effectively do their work, to be deterred by a little difficulty from ascertaining something of its peculiarities. They might be seen, therefore, squeezing their portly persons into the narrowest possible opening, or climbing over the top to get a sight of its working parts.

The display of roots was this year unusually large; the Messrs. Gibbs, Skirving, and others, exhibiting marvellous specimens of cabbages, swedes, white turnips, and mangold-wurzel. The Royal Dublin Society make a great show in this department, and gave a good idea of what the land of the Sister Isle is capable of producing: specimens of all the roots and plants usually cultivated by farmers, were seen here of the finest possible quality.

A tub of Irish butter was also contributed by Mr. Dargan, the quality of which all pronounced to be most excellent.

The following is the award of prizes made on Monday evening:—

DEVONS.

CLASS 1.—First prize of 25*l.* to No. 5, the Earl of Leicester, of Holkham Hall, Norfolk. A silver medal to the breeder, the Earl of Leicester, of Holkham Hall, Norfolk. Second prize of 10*l.* to No. 4, Mr. George Turner, of Barton, near Exeter.

CLASS 2.—First prize of 25*l.* to No. 19, Mr. John Coate, of Hammoon, near Blandford. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. Edward Bond, of Heathfield, near Taunton. Second prize of 10*l.* to No. 9, the Earl of Leicester, of Holkham Hall, Norfolk.

CLASS 3.—First prize of 15*l.* to No. 21, Mr. Samuel Farthing, of Stowey Court, near Bridgewater. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. John K. Farthing, of Nether Stowey, near Bridgewater.

CLASS 4.—First prize of 20*l.* to No. 27, the Earl of Leicester, of Holkham Hall, Norfolk. Silver medal to the breeder, the Earl of Leicester, of Holkham Hall, Norfolk. Second prize of 10*l.* to No. 26, Lord Portman, of Bryanstone, near Blandford.

HEREFORDS.

CLASS 5.—First prize of 25*l.* to No. 34, the Earl of Radnor, of Coleshill House, Berks. Silver medal to the breeder, the Earl of Radnor, of Coleshill House, Berks. Second prize of 10*l.* to No. 31, Mr. Josh. Phillips, of Ardington, near Wantage.

CLASS 6.—First prize of 25*l.* to No. 36, Mr. Isaac Niblet, of Conygre Farm, Filton, near Bristol. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. T. L. Meire, of Cound Harbour, Shrewsbury. Second prize of 10*l.* to No. 37, Mr. John Phillips, of Ardington, near Wantage.

CLASS 7.—First prize of 15*l.* to No. 49, Mr. Robt. Beman, of Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucester. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. Josh. Bayzand, of Kingley, near Alcester. Second prize of 5*l.* to No. 48, Mr. Josh Phillips, of Ardington, near Wantage.

CLASS 8.—First prize of 20*l.* to No. 50, Mr. W. S. Cartwright, of Stow-hill, Newport, Monmouth. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. Henry Collins, of Newport, Monmouth. Second prize of 10*l.*, no competition.

ham, near Oxford. Silver medal to the breeder, Mr. Samuel Druce, of Eynsham, near Oxford. Second prize of 5*l.* to No. 182, Mr. John Hitchman, of Little Milton, near Wheatley, Oxon.

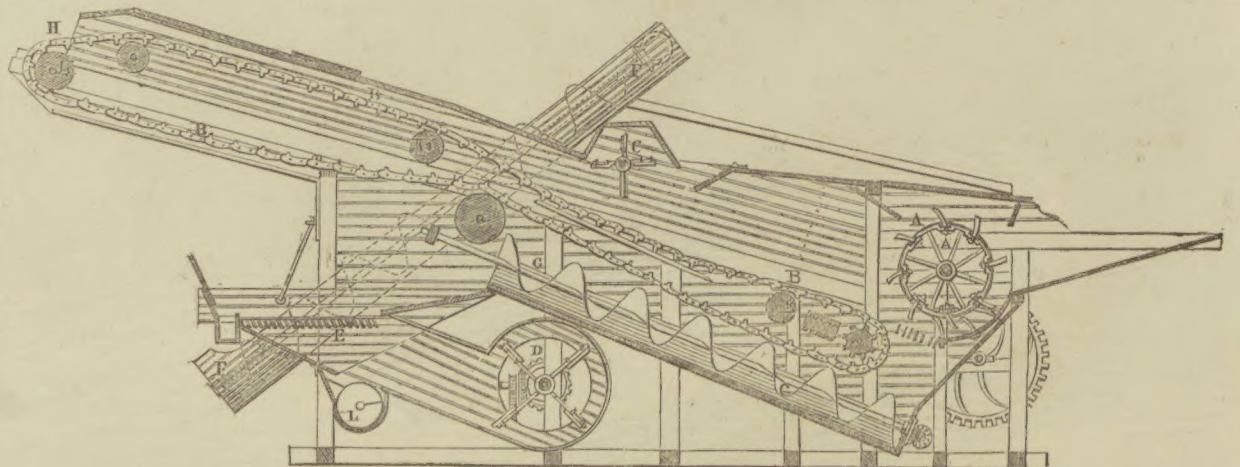
CLASS 24.—The prize of 10*l.* to No. 188, Lord Walsingham, of Merton-hall, Thetford. Silver medal to the breeder, Lord Walsingham, of Merton-hall, Thetford.

SHORT-WOOLLED SHEEP.

CLASS 25.—First prize of 20*l.* to No. 207, the Duke of Richmond, of Goodwood, near Chichester. Silver medal to the breeder, the Duke of Richmond, of Goodwood, near Chichester. Second prize of 10*l.* to No. 206, Mr. William Ridden, of Hove, near Brighton.

CLASS 26.—The prize of 10*l.* to No. 220, the Duke of Richmond, of Goodwood. Silver medal to the breeder, the Duke of Richmond, of Goodwood.

CLASS 27.—First prize of 20*l.* to No. 229, the Duke of Richmond, of Goodwood. Silver medal to the breeder, the Duke of Richmond, of Goodwood. Second prize of 10*l.* to 234, the Earl of Radnor, of Coleshill House, Berks.



A. The drum armed with iron pegs.

B. B. The travelling apron, showing the side elevation of the links and studs.

C. A revolving straw shaker.

D. The blowing fan.

E. The Archimedian screw elevator for returning the unthrashed chobs.

F. The grain elevator.

G. Iron pulleys to carry the travelling apron.

H. The straw delivery.

THE AMERICAN THRASHING AND SEPARATING MACHINE.—SECTIONAL VIEW.



LARGE RABBIT AT LEICESTER.

into a cart, or any other receptacle. On the under side of the links that form the endless chain are some small studs, which, in passing over the iron pulleys (K K) that carry it, give to it a peculiar jerking motion, which causes the grains of corn to shake out from the straw, and to fall into the well of the machine, from whence they are carried into a separating or winnowing part. This, also, is peculiar; the riddle adopted being in form similar to a partly-closed Venetian blind (E), which allows the grain to pass between the slats that compose it; while the chaff is blown over the end of the shaking shoe, where it is collected by a chaff riddle, if necessary. Any chobs, or imperfectly-thrashed heads, are caught and carried back to the cylinder that they may again be subjected to the action of the drum. The trials that have been made with it are considered highly satisfactory; it thrashed and cleaned, ready for market, in four hours thirty-two quarters of wheat; and, in six hours, it thrashed fifty-six quarters of barley in a superior manner—the barley being sold immediately afterwards at a high price for malting. The wheat was thrashed remarkably clean, and particularly free from broken grain; much of it was purchased for seed by the farmers who were visiting Mr. Mechi's farm.

The Machine, during the trials, was driven by a portable agricultural steam-engine of four-horse power.

LARGE RABBIT.

This extraordinary Rabbit was bred by Mr. Joseph Allsopp, of Leicester, where she is regarded as one of the curiosities of the Fancy. She took a first prize at a Rabbit-show, in September, 1851. She weighed 8lb. 8oz. when three months old. She died when twelve months old; weighing 18lb.; length of ears from tip to tip, 22 inches; and breadth of each ear, 5½ inches. This Rabbit was considered the largest in weight and dimensions ever known in the midland counties; and the ears are stated to be the longest ever known in any part. She had the whole of the seven properties which are considered to belong to her variety, in make, shape, colour, &c.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

YORKSHIRE AGRICULTURAL SHOW.—The Christmas exhibition of fat stock, sheep, pigs, and poultry was opened at Leeds on Tuesday, and continued to Friday. A large pavilion or covered building was erected in Wellington street, near the railway station. The entries, though not very numerous, were quite as much so as was expected, considering that this was the first show; and included some very fine specimens of fat Short-horns, Hereford steers, and other cattle. The show of roots was also good; and that of poultry first-rate. The entries of stock, sheep, and pigs numbered 56; and of poultry, 395. About £360 was awarded in prizes, and about £700 has been expended in making the necessary provisions for the show.

ETON.—Tuesday being "Founder's-day" at Eton, the collegers discussed their customary turkey feast in the dining-hall, and afterwards departed for their respective homes to spend the Christmas vacation. The oppidans took their departure in the morning. In the evening the Provost (the Rev. Dr. Hawtrey) gave the annual banquet to the masters, assistant-masters, and a select circle of old Etonians, in the Audit-chamber. On Wednesday the candidates for the vacant fellowship will be officially declared, and the election is fixed for the 13th inst. It appears that the upper and lower masters have no abstract or legal right to the vacant fellowships, but they have always been understood to possess a priority of claim. All the present fellows, as well as the Provost, were masters at Eton, the only instances to the contrary being those of the late Mr. Grover, Mr. Wright, and Mr. Lonsdale.

DEPARTURES FOR AUSTRALIA.—The *Matilda Wattenbach* sailed from the Mersey on Sunday for Melbourne, with 40 passengers, the English mails (consisting of 35,000 newspapers and 68,000 letters), besides a cargo of 1900 tons of merchandise. The *Golden Age* (screw) sailed on Monday afternoon, having been fully repaired. She had on board about 160 passengers, a fair amount of cargo, and about 12,000 letters and 6000 newspapers.

WINDSOR.—Last week, at the National School, where 200 boys and as many girls are educated, the greatest terror was caused by the discovery of a mad dog amongst the children. All escaped but one unfortunate little girl, whom the dog seized by the back part of the leg. The child was immediately taken to the Royal Dispensary, where, under the influence of chloroform, the bitten parts were carefully dissected, and afterwards cauterised by Dr. Eton. The dog was shot.

LOST OF A HULL STEAMER.—The *Marshall*, a screw-steamer, from Hamburg, due at Hull on Monday week, had not arrived on Thursday. She left the Elbe on Sunday; and had on board a large and valuable cargo, and upwards of 150 emigrants, besides her crew, about 18 in number. On Wednesday, some of her boats were picked by a fishing-smack in the North Sea. The barque *Woodhouse* came into collision with a steamer, supposed to be the *Marshall*, on Monday, off the mouth of the Humber, and a Russian vessel heard cries of distress. A number of fishing-boats report having seen the masts of the *Marshall* above low-water mark near Kilm Sea, about five miles from the Newsand Float.

GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION.—SOUTHAMPTON.—The *Hyderabad*, 515 tons, Captain Castles, left the docks on Friday (last week) with 230 Government emigrants on board. She is bound for Adelaide, and sailed on Tuesday. The *Hooghly*, of 465 tons, is the next Government emigrant ship sailing hence. She will leave about the 12th inst. for Portland Bay; and will be followed, about the 30th inst., by the *Persian*, a fine ship of 1004 tons, for Melbourne. This will make thirty-five Government ships and six private ships despatched from this port during the year.

POACHING.—The Earl of Stamford, the other day, came upon three poachers on his grounds at Stourbridge, who made off on seeing him. His Lordship pursued, and caught one of the fellows by the collar, but was immediately brought to the ground by a heavy blow on the back of the head, which stunned him for a short time, of which the fellows availed themselves to get clear off. His Lordship, on recovering himself, managed to get into the road again, but was so disabled from the effects of the blow that he was obliged to go into a cottage, and send for a carriage to take him home.

TYNEMOUTH BREWERY COMMISSION.—This commission has been examining several witnesses, consisting chiefly of publicans and tradesmen, who deposed to having been patronised before the election by the partisans of the respective candidates. Some evidence also showed that the agent of the Duke of Northumberland had been very active in the last contest, and had used influence to make the tenants vote for Mr. Taylor. It is thought the inquiry will terminate this week.

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE ELECTION.—On Saturday, Mr. Evelyn Philip Shirley, a Conservative, was elected M.P. for South Warwickshire, without opposition, in the room of the present Earl of Warwick, who has just succeeded to his title. Mr. Shirley said he should go to Parliament an independent man, prepared to support such measures as might be consistent with the safety of the State, the maintenance of the Apostolic Church of these realms, and the preservation of its connection with monarchy. He should be ready, too, at all times to support the agricultural interest, and he hoped that by such conduct he should be found to be what was called, in the language of a well-known political club—"a safe and good man."

THE TWO VACANT COUNTY SEATS.—The seats for both South Staffordshire and East Gloucestershire will be contested. Meetings have been held in each county by the Liberal party, whose candidates are—for South Staffordshire, Lord Paget; and for East Gloucestershire, Mr. Holland.

MONUMENT TO DR. MOIR.—Last week the monument which has just been erected to the late Dr. Moir, at Musselburgh, was publicly inaugurated. The site of the memorial is on the right bank of the Esk, and the east end of the New Bridge. It consists of a statue 8½ feet, upon a pedestal of 20 feet. The statue, which is the work of Mr. A. Handyside Ritchie, has given much satisfaction, the countenance and profile being considered to bear a striking resemblance to the deceased. The pedestal is a plain square pillar, exhibiting near the top the letter Delta, the *nom de plume* of the poet, encircled by a wreath. At the base is the following inscription:—"In memory of David Macbeth Moir. Beloved as a man, honoured as a citizen, esteemed as a physician, and celebrated as a poet. Born 5th Jan., 1798. Died 6th July, 1851."

FATAL GAS EXPLOSION.—On Friday week a dreadful explosion occurred at the gas-works recently erected near the St. Mary's Barracks, Chatham. In filling the new gasometer it was found that the gas was escaping, and the engineer (Culley), with a workman named Hall, proceeded to the top to see from what part the leakage came. The men incautiously took with them a lighted candle, and the gasometer instantly blew up with a loud report. Culley was hurled a great distance on the adjacent marshes, and was frightfully mangled, and quite dead. The body of Hall was found under the gasometer.

OPENING OF THE HEREFORD AND SHREWSBURY RAILWAY.—The opening of this line took place on Monday last, on which occasion the event was celebrated with rejoicings along the line, more particularly at Leominster and Hereford. On Monday, a special train, in which were Mr. W. O. Gore, M.P., Chairman of the Company; Mr. Robertson, engineer; Mr. J. J. Peele, solicitor; and Mr. W. Roberts, secretary to the Company, and some others officially connected with the line, started from Shrewsbury, and arrived at Leominster soon after three o'clock. Here they were received by the Mayor and Corporation, dressed in their official robes, and a large concourse of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, who cheered loudly as the train arrived at the station. The Directors and their friends then adjourned to the Royal Oak Hotel, where a capital dinner was prepared for them, and to which about one hundred gentlemen sat down. On Tuesday similar demonstrations, but on a more extensive scale, took place at Hereford—the good city, at the request of the Mayor, observing a general holiday on the occasion. The opening of the Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford line, which is fixed for the 15th instant, will, in connection with the Shrewsbury and Hereford and Shrewsbury and Chester, form a direct chain of communication from the Mersey to the Bristol Channel; and when the Hereford, Ross, and Gloucester is finished, it will form the shortest and quickest route for the traffic between the south of Ireland and London. (Next week we shall illustrate the festivities at Hereford, on Tuesday.)

THE LATE FATAL ACCIDENT AT PLYMOUTH.—On Friday week, the jury assembled at the Guildhall, to inquire into the cause of the death of the five boys who were killed, as previously reported, by the fall of the houses in Southside-street. No further evidence was adduced, and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death, coupled with a recommendation to the commissioners that in future all old houses should be pulled down, under the superintendence of the town surveyor, and that proper notice should be given to him of such removals. Another boy, named Dyer, has since died from the injuries received.

A FRENCH STEAMER IN DISTRESS.—The Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer *Douro*, from Constantinople, put into Plymouth on Saturday last, in consequence of having in tow a French steamer, which she picked up in the Bay of Biscay. The latter was the *Paris*, steam-boat, bound from Havre to Marseilles, and her captain stated that her boilers were burst and collapsed, and that she was unmanageable. An engineer sent on board from the *Douro* got up the steam in the starboard boilers, and so assisted in the propulsion of the vessel. Captain Russell landed the mails and despatches, and having taken the necessary steps with regard to his convoy, left in the *Douro* on Sunday morning for Southampton.

NARROW ESCAPE.—On Friday week, as the Bishops of Natal and Graham's Town were proceeding in a fly to Cuddesden Palace, to meet a party at the Bishop of Oxford's, the carriage was upset near Wheatley, and the right rev. brethren were extricated from their perilous situation by being helped out through the window, as the door could not be opened. Their Lordships sustained no injury; and as the Bishop of Oxford's carriage, returning from Oxford, fortunately reached the spot shortly after the accident, their Lordships were enabled to proceed to their destination.

THE YORK AND NORTH MIDLAND RAILWAY v. MR. HUDSON.—In the Equity Court, on Saturday, the decision of the Master of the Rolls, in the suit brought by the York and North Midland Railway Company against Mr. Hudson, for £24,590, was given in favour of the company, Mr. Hudson being required to pay £20,000 into Court by the 11th of next month, and the remainder by the 15th of April. Among the sums involved in this amount was one of £6300, which Mr. Hudson had stated in his answer to have been distributed by him in the shape of shares to certain persons of influence connected with the landed interest and Parliament for their support to the line; and another of £3120 which had been paid by him to the Corporation of York, for legal expenses incurred by them in favour of the undertaking. In respect to the former, Mr. Hudson said he was pledged to secrecy, though he would have given the names in private to the Master of the Rolls. The Court, however, could take no cognizance of that offer, and held Mr. Hudson accountable; at the same time condemning the transaction as alike wrong on the part of the giver and the receivers. With respect to the sum paid to the Corporation of York, the Court had no doubt that Mr. Hudson had bona fide paid the money; but, as he had no authority to do so, they decided that he must refund it, although the requirement seemed rather oppressive. As to the conduct of the Corporation in lending itself to the object out of which the payment arose, the Court thought it unnecessary to express an opinion.

FAT STOCK AND THE SMITHFIELD SHOW.

THE event of the week, in London, is, without question, the "Smithfield Club Fat Cattle Show," which—after an existence of more than half a century, still flourishes, and receives undiminished support from contributors of stock—affords decidedly increased attraction to the miscellaneous crowds who hasten there to stare, to study, to compare, and to meet their country friends.

In the Baker-street Exhibition all the tastes of Englishmen are brought out—the gastronomic, the agricultural, the social. The Frenchman's idea of retiring from business is to live in Paris, lounge on the Boulevards in the morning, and go the round of the theatres during the evenings of the week. The Frenchman seldom inquires into the quality of the meat served to him; he knows nothing of the difference between Normandy and Brittany beef; a cutlet well cooked is a cutlet to him, no matter where the sheep was fed; but he is learned in sauces—great in *purée* and *sauté*. The Englishman's idea of retiring from trade, is a country life, a small farm, a couple of cows, home-made bread and butter, with pigs of extraordinary fatness, a trotting cob, a yard full of Patagonian Cochins-Chinas, or grand grey Dorkings. Then he is learned, or pretends to be, in the qualities of beef and mutton; discourses critically on Short-horn and Hereford; expresses a preference, in order to be in the fashion, for a four-year-old Highland ox, or Norfolk-fed Devon; and says a great deal on the question between the pure South Down and the Hampshire, or half-bred Leicesters. John generally inclines to the more expensive meat—he has acquired a taste for it at his chop-house, and city dinners; but Mrs. Bull, being economical, likes rather more size in legs of mutton, and fat on sirloins of beef, besides objecting to the difference of a penny extra a pound paid for the fashionable Highlander, "of the same sort as that supplied to the Queen," and Downs of the pure Richmond or Shelley breed.

Now all these tastes are fully satisfied at the Christmas Show. People meet their country friends, handle the stock, and indulge the aristocratic admiration which forms so striking a feature in the British character, by closely inspecting, admiring, and tormenting the bullocks sent by Dukes and Earls, and the pigs contributed by Prince Albert.

It is the universal sympathy, the decided taste exhibited by the English public of every degree, that keeps the Christmas Shows up to the mark. Peers and mechanics are as much interested and amused as the farmers who breed and feed.

A few years ago the Smithfield Club held their Exhibition in a small yard in Goswell-street; now the great Bazaar in Baker-street will scarcely contain the entries; although, in various parts of the country, and especially in Birmingham, other Shows are held, by which contributors who formerly sent to London are attracted.

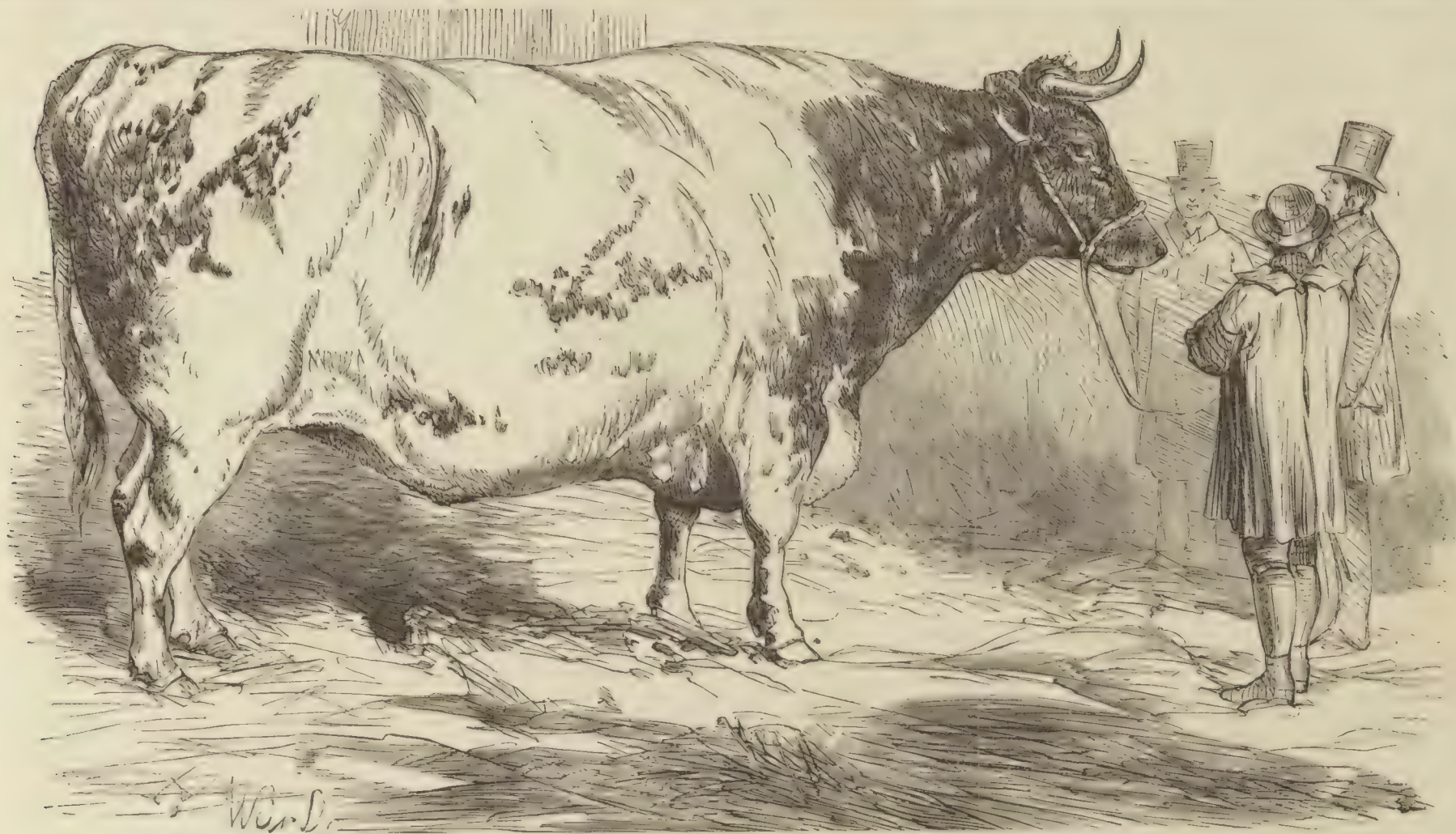
But if local exhibitions have divided the interest once concentrated in London, railroads have extended the range of the Metropolitan Show to districts before unapproachable. A fat ox can be sent a distance in a day at an expense of 40s., which formerly would have required a week's time and twenty pounds of hard money. Railroads have also had their effect on visitors, who are no longer confined to the immediate inhabitants of the metropolis and the few men of wealth who formerly took a part in scientific agriculture. Thirty years ago the use of bones as manure, on which the cultivation of the turnip rests, was slowly extending from one district of Yorkshire, the Lincolnshire Wolds, and Cheshire superphosphates, so stimulating and portable, were unknown; guano was undreamed of; and the use of cake for feeding purposes was, out of two counties, almost as rare as the consumption of claret. Farmers rarely read in those days, and still more rarely travelled beyond the nearest market-town. The existence of excellent breeds and valuable usages in feeding remained unknown beyond limited districts; and a farmer of the south was, perhaps, more strange to a farmer in the north than a French or Dutch agriculturist would be at the present day. It was not that there were not plenty of men of first-rate agricultural and especially stock-breeding skill in those days, but they had few means of coming together and exchanging the benefits of their mutual experience.

Many people eat beef or mutton, fry bacon and cure hams, and have no idea that the manufacture—to use no far-fetched term—of these necessary articles, has made almost as much progress as that of woollen cloth or paper. For instance, the exertions of Coke of Holkham, Francis Duke of Bedford, Earl Spencer, and others untitled, who followed in the traces of Bakewell and the brothers Culley, have shortened the period at which horned stock can be brought to eating condition, without loss of quality, from six years to three—in Short-horns to even less than three years; while, in the other direction, improved stall and box, feeding with varieties of fat-making food, render it possible to bring old cows into prime killing condition. For an example, we may refer to the beautiful fat Devon cow, fourteen years old, exhibited this week by the Earl of Leicester. By following up the same principles, five-year-old mutton has been superseded by stock which comes to full maturity at twenty months; and pigs, which used in two years to eat their heads off, are now brought into much primer condition at nine months. The greater part of this improvement may be distinctly traced to the experiments and exertions made by the noblemen, gentlemen, and practical farmers who form, or support by their contribution of animals, the Smithfield Fat-stock Club.

The advantage to the consumer of this increase of meat manufacture is enormous: it has enabled us to use, during the winter, fresh meat, instead of salt meat; which in the early part of the eighteenth century, formed the winter fare of the most respectable families. To the working classes the improvement in the breed of pigs has been of essential service. Within the last ten years, the old-fashioned, unprofitable pig, has been superseded, in the labourers' and mechanics' cottages of Lancashire and Yorkshire, and other active counties, by improved breeds, which a very few years previously were considered the exclusive property of the wealthy amateurs.

The early maturity and improved quality which has been attained since the Smithfield Club was established, has been accompanied, step by step, by equally important improvements in the other operations of agriculture. Good stock cannot be profitably brought into good killing condition without good food. Turnips and other root-crops are essential for feeding stock to that evenness and symmetry which is now considered an essential qualification for a prize. Corn and cake will give lumpy fat, but roots give evenness and quality. To grow roots in plenty plenty of manure is essential, and well-fed stock form of themselves a great manure manufactory. Again, to grow root crops, good cultivation, drainage, pulverisation, careful sowing, are essential; hence the duties of the mechanic are called into play. But farm-yard manure and root produce is not enough; we want more pungent manures to stimulate and hasten the growth of our roots and grasses. We want, too, more grain and more beans than our fields will supply. So, after having, by railroad and steam-boats, collected beasts which once ran almost valueless upon their Scotch or Devon hills; after having set the farmer to break up his grass land and husband his manure; after having stimulated the landlords to build good sheds and feeding yards, and to drain and thin timber; after having taxed the ingenuity of the implement-maker—we call upon the merchant, and send him abroad to gather guano and nitrate of soda in South America and Africa, and the dung of bats in India, and modern bones from every country in the world, and fossil bones (which our chemists can dissolve) from Estremadura in Spain; and, not content with these stimulants, we buy beans and pulse in Egypt, and Indian corn and barley and oats grown round the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, as well as the Baltic and beyond the Atlantic.

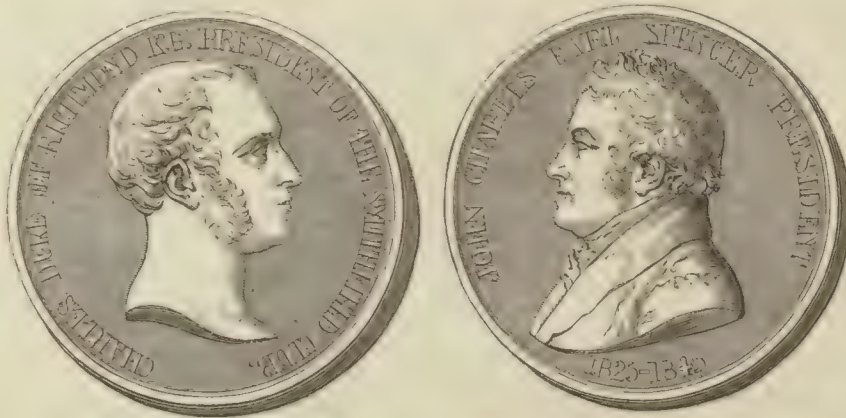
Thus, in the shows of the Smithfield Club we may learn—if we but read the labels, walk round the galleries, examine the implements, and the contributions of private dealers in seeds as well as of the Royal Irish and English Agricultural Societies—that the roast beef of Old England, the unequalled mutton, and much-envied pork, depend not less on the skill of our graziers and breeders than on the talent of our mechanics and chemists, and the enterprise of our merchants.



SIR HARRY VERNEY'S HUGE SHORT-HORNED OX, EXHIBITED AT THE SMITHFIELD CLUB SHOW.—(SEE PAGE 488)

CHRISTMAS GRAND POULTRY SHOW.

THE grand annual winter show of poultry, formerly held at the Surrey Zoological Gardens, took place this year in the Great Central Horse Repository, St. George's-road, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The number of birds on show was exceedingly large, there being no fewer than 585 pens of poultry, and upwards of 200 pens of pigeons. The character of the show generally was remarkably good, better even than the summer show at the gardens. The Cochin-Chinas mustered in strong force, and looked well. There were also a few of the new variety, the Brahmopoota, which, it is stated, is even more valuable as a layer than the ormer. They are handsome birds, but appear to be rather extravagantly rated, the price affixed ranging from twenty-five pounds up to a hundred guineas a pen. The other varieties—Dorking, Poland, Hamburgs, Malays, Bantams, &c.—were numerous, and all well deserving the inspection of amateurs. There were several pens of ducks and geese, the latter particularly fine, and a few turkeys and guinea fowls. The pigeons were all exceedingly beautiful, and included most of the fancy varieties. The pens of Mr. Bult and Mr. Wicken deserved special commendation. The following is a list of the principal prizes awarded:—Cochin-China, buff, lemon, or cinnamon, any age, Mr. J. Ival; hatched in 1853. Mr. H. English; white, any age, Mr. G. C. Peters; hatched in 1853, Rev. N. Allen; brown, any



THE SMITHFIELD CLUB PRIZE MEDAL.

age, Mr. J. Fairlie; hatched in 1853. Mr. J. F. Chater; black, Mr. R. P. Flight. Spanish, Mr. T. Painter, Mr. G. Botham, Mr. T. H. Fox. Dorking, coloured, Mr. T. Dutton, Mr. R. Boys, Mr. W. T. Squire; white, Mrs. Mills, Mr. C. Alloway. Polands, black, Mr. J. Crawther, Mr. W. Symonds; golden, Mr. H. F. Fisher; silver, Mr. S. T. Baker, Mr. W. Symonds. Game Fowls, Mr. G. C. Adkins, Mr. J. Monsey, Mr. S. Ridley. Malay, Mr. W. Mansfield. Hamburg, Mr. C. Rawson, Mrs. Henry Fookes, Mr. Cyrus Clark, Mr. B. P. Brent, Mr. F. Buckland. Bantams, Mr. H. D. Palmer, Mr. G. C. Adkins, Mr. J. Monsey, Rev. G. F. Hodson. Geese, Mr. C. Rawson. Ducks, Mr. J. Eason. Mr. T. Fairley. Guinea Fowl, Mr. W. G. Vivian. There were several ingenious machines and apparatus connected with poultry management exhibited.

SMITHFIELD CLUB PRIZE MEDAL.

Of this Medal, about thirty silver and five gold impressions are annually given to the breeders of the prize animals at the Smithfield Club Show. The Medal bears the effigies of Earl Spencer, first President of the Club; and of the Duke of Richmond, the successor of Earl Spencer in the presidential chair. The Medal has been executed by Messrs. Thomas, of 153, New Bond-street, who have been silversmiths to the Club from its formation.

MR. C. ALLOWAY'S WHITE DORKING.
GOLDEN POLANDS, MR. H. B. FISHER.SILVER POLAND, MR. W. SYMONS.
MR. B. PIERCE'S HAMBURG SILVER-PENCILLED.

SPANISH, MR. T. H. FOX.

HAMBURG SILVER-PENCILLED, MR. BERNARD PIERCE.
FIRST PRIZE COCHIN-CHINA, MR. JOHN FAIRLIE.

PRIZE POULTRY, FROM THE WINTER SHOW, AT ST. GEORGE'S-ROAD.



THE NEW (WEST) WING OF SOMERSET HOUSE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

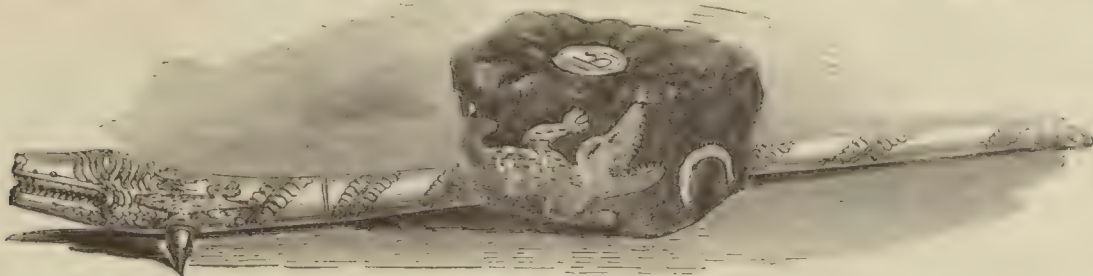
ROYAL PRESENT TO A BRITISH OFFICER.

This ornamented Cap and Silver Staff have just been presented to Commander Eardley Wilmot (late of H.M.S. *Harlequin*, from the coast of Africa) by the King of Dahomey, through the King of Porto Novo, as a tribute of esteem and friendship.

This Staff is an emblem of high rank, and gives to the possessor the

The Cap is of purple velvet, with the same device displayed upon it. In the centre, or front, is a golden crescent, the emblem of Royalty. The Staff is a curious specimen of African workmanship, and, altogether, is valuable, not only from the rank that it gives to its possessor, but from its distinguishing feature of African nobility.

This is, we believe, the first occasion of such a mark of esteem being presented to a British officer by an African Sovereign.



AFRICAN SILVER STAFF AND CAP, PRESENTED TO CAPTAIN EARDLEY WILMOT, R.N.

title of Caboceer, or Great Chief. Whenever the person carrying this Staff is seen, the natives fall prostrate upon the ground, and, according to the homage paid to Royalty, throw dirt over their heads, as a mark of their most profound respect and adoration. Commander Eardley Wilmot has been successful in making several treaties with the Kings and Chiefs of Western Africa; and his name is well known amongst the various tribes.

The Staff is 25 inches long, of plated silver, with the Alligator's Head very conspicuously displayed. This reptile is the "Fetish," or God of the country, and worshipped by them.

LONDON AND BLACKWALL RAILWAY.—ENLARGEMENT OF THE FENCHURCH-STREET STATION.

The growing importance of the London and Blackwall Railway, the immense number of passengers passing through its London terminus, and the increase anticipated from the working arrangements of the company with the Eastern Counties and Tilbury and Southend Railways, have for some time made it apparent that an enlargement of the Fenchurch-street Station would be necessary.

For several months past the works and buildings requisite to effect

this have been steadily progressing; and on Saturday, the 19th ult., a portion of the new Station was opened to the public, and the whole will be very shortly completed.

The new Station will comprise booking-offices and waiting-rooms, with platform accommodation for the London and Blackwall, the North London, the Eastern Counties, and the Tilbury and South-end Railways, covered by one roof, 101 feet span, and upwards of 300 feet long; there is also a wing, containing the secretary's, and other offices, and the board-room.

Considerable care and judgment have been required in the execution of the works to avoid any interruption to the traffic, which has been continued throughout the progress of the works. This circumstance, together with the difficulty in obtaining possession of the land, &c., have caused considerable delay in the execution of the works.

The station has been built by Messrs. J. and C. Rigby, of Westminster; and the roof constructed by Messrs. C. J. Mare and Co. of Blackwall, under the superintendence of Mr. George Berkely, the Company's Engineer.

MR. ALBERT SMITH.

On Monday evening, this distinguished *litterateur* resumed his popular entertainment of "the Ascent of Mont Blanc," at the Egyptian-hall in Piccadilly, which suggests a fit opportunity for presenting to our readers the antecedents of our successful illustrator of life and manners.



MR. ALBERT SMITH,—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYALI.

Albert Smith was born May 24, 1816, at Chertsey, in Surrey; was educated at Merchant Taylors' School; studied medicine at the Middlesex Hospital, and became a member of the College of Surgeons in 1838; after which he continued his studies at the Hôtel Dieu and Clamart, in Paris; and, on his return to England, practised with his father as a surgeon, at Chertsey. He had already appeared as an author, in a pamphlet entitled "Arguments against Phrenology," in which the leading question propounded was, "Whether the external form of the Head correspond to the external surface of the Brain?" This brochure appeared in 1837, when its author was described as "a rising student in one of our metropolitan hospitals." His argument extends to some two dozen pages, the most remarkable feature in which is the good-natured satire and quiet humour with which the writer demolishes the theory of the Phreologists. In 1838, Mr. Smith communicated a series of clever "Sketches in Paris," to *The Mirror*, then edited by John Timbs; and, in 1839, appeared in the same editor's periodical, the *Literary World*, Mr. Smith's "Sketches of Evening Parties," the earliest specimens of the writer's home fun; and in the same work he printed and illustrated a narrative of his "Passage of the Great St. Bernard," the *avant-courier* of his "Ascent of Mont Blanc," which he faithfully describes as a long-cherished hope of his early youth. About this time he gave a very interesting account, of his Mount St.



NEW TERMINUS OF THE BLACKWALL RAILWAY, AT FENCHURCH-STREET.

Bernard journey, illustrated with his own drawings, at several public institutions of the metropolis and its environs. He also wrote a set of characteristic papers for the *Medical Times*; and in 1841 he settled in town, and began to write for the magazines, and became a contributor to the pages of *Punch*—in the first volume of which appeared his "Medical Student" sketches. In 1842 Mr. Smith wrote for the *London Saturday Journal* a *nouvellette*, entitled the "Armourer of Paris;" and an old Chertsey legend, "Blanche Heriot," which he afterwards dramatised for the Surrey Theatre—this being his first essay in writing for the stage.

Mr. Smith has since produced the "Adventures of Mr. Ledbury," the "Scattergood Family," the "Marchioness of Brinvilliers," "Christopher Tadpole," and the "Pottleton Legacy," most of which first appeared in *Bentley's Miscellany*, and have been republished in volumes. He, likewise, wrote for the Lyceum and Princess' Theatres several burlesques, which enjoyed great popularity. Next he appeared as the author of a set of amusing little books, the idea of which may have been taken from the Parisian "Physiologies," but, in each instance, was worked out by our author with great originality; such were "The Gent," "The Flirt," "The Ballet-girl," "The Idler upon Town," "Stuck-up People," &c.: which, by good-naturedly showing up the weak points of a very large class of society, insured a very extensive popularity.

Meanwhile, Mr. Smith occasionally contributed to *Blackwood's Magazine*, the *Keepsake*, the *Book of Beauty*, and other Annuals; and, for several years, he was the dramatic critic of the *ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS*, to which journal also he contributed many a column of pictorial pleasures. He also wrote several songs for John Parry, and his entertainment entitled "Lights and Shadows of Social Life."

In 1849, Mr. Smith made an excursion to the East, and on his return, published his clever volume, "A Month at Constantinople," and in the following year he produced his entertainment of travel, "The Overland Mail." Next year, Mr. Smith made the ascent of Mont Blanc. Upon this perilous journey was founded his entertainment, first given at the Egyptian Hall, March 15, 1852, the success of which is best attested by the following data: in the two seasons 1852-53 there paid for admission 193,754 persons; the entertainment was represented 471 times, and once privately to Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and Prince Alfred, at the Egyptian Hall, June 28, 1852, at half-past nine o'clock in the morning. The sum received at the doors during the two seasons exceeded £17,000; and it is a noteworthy merit of Mr. Smith's management, that no charge was made for places taken or for play-bills.

Our author's latest work, "The Story of Mont Blanc," has already been reviewed in our columns: it is altogether his best literary production, and has a maturity and finish which will prove a lasting merit.

"The Ascent of Mont Blanc," as we have already mentioned, was resumed on Monday evening. Mr. Smith has not, however, trusted, in this, his third season, altogether to the old materials, whether of decoration or information. He has had the hall of exhibition refitted: the dais now taking the form of a Swiss chalet, the symbolic representation of which, with its picturesque fretwork, serves in part for a curtain to the dioramic stage. The front still continues to exhibit the same appropriate and pretty aquarium, with its lilies, mosses, shells, and fishes; but the galleries occupied by the audience are made to resemble the balconies of the Bernese chalets, with suitable inscriptions; so that the spectator may dream that he is indeed transported into the midst of a Swiss province, listening to his old friend telling his usual tale of wonder. The changes made in the lecture relate to the route by which the scene of exploit is reached, and which includes the scenery of the Bernese Oberland, the Rhine-bridge at Basle, Boulogne, Epernay, Zurich, Righi Kulm Hotel, the Lake of Lucerne, Interlaken, and the Wengern Alp Inn, with the Jungfrau and Eigers in the distance. Some favourite characterisations are likewise introduced, such as Mr. Pringle, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Phipps, with a Mr. Hartley, of the Foreign Office—with whom new incidents are associated, replete with humour and individuality. The portion relative to Mont Blanc has not at all been altered. But the sequel, like the introduction, contains novel matter. The Simplon, by the village of Brieg; the Gaurher-bridge; the Gorge of Gondol, by Domo d'Ossola, down to the Lago Maggiore and back homewards, are the theme of the supplementary lecture, which is accompanied with beautiful views of the scenery, and introduces to our acquaintance a new traveller of the name of Browne, and an extraordinary teller of unintelligible stories. Altogether, the entertainment comes again before the public with fresh attractions, and was inaugurated with an overflowing and delighted audience.

We find the following merited tribute to our author in the *Revue Britannique*, Paris, July, 1852:—

C'est M. Albert Smith en personne, que vous avez pu rencontrer comme nous, il y a quinze ans à Paris, fréquentant la clinique de l'Hôtel Dieu; mais, malgré ses brillantes études en médecine, il y a longtemps qu'il a renoncé à la profession médicale pour se faire successivement romancier, journaliste, et enfin touriste dramatique, allant chercher des impressions de voyage, puis revenant à Londres pour les traduire en narration orale. M. Albert Smith est, s'il est voulu, un charmant comédien. Ajoutons qu'il n'abuse pas de son talent de mime et de chanteur; avec un goût parfait, il se contente de faire rire un moment et revient à la partie sérieuse de sa narration, à peu près telle qu'il l'a publiée lui-même.

SOMERSET HOUSE.

THIS noble structure, the work of Sir William Chambers, was commenced in 1776, and was in progress more than fourteen years; since, it appears by a report laid before Parliament in 1790, that £334,703 had been then expended, and that an additional sum of £35,500 was still wanting to complete the building. Ultimately, half a million of money was expended upon it, and it was left unfinished.

Somerset House is one of the finest structures of which the metropolis can boast. The admirable proportions and excellent details of the Strand front, the elegance of the open vestibule leading into the noble courtyard, around which the offices are placed, the internal distribution, the river front, and the decoration of the interior, have obtained for the architect the praise of those best qualified to judge. As a piece of masonry, it is unrivalled: the masks of river deities on the key-stones of the arches, by Carlini and Wilton, are admirably executed.

The east wing of Somerset House was left incomplete by Chambers; but in 1820 the vacant space was filled up, from the designs of Sir Robert Smirke, with the buildings for King's College. The west side, or that next Wellington-street, has remained unfinished till now, flanked by some ungainly brick dwelling-houses. In consequence of the consolidation of the boards of Excise, Stamps, and Taxes, &c., into one board (the Inland Revenue), it became necessary to abandon the Excise Office, in Broad-street, City, and bring all the establishment under one roof at Somerset House; and Mr. James Pennethorne, the architect to the Board of Works, was directed to make designs for the completion. By the alteration proposed, a large annual saving will be effected, and the cost of the new buildings will be met by the sale of the old Excise Office; so that no expense, we understand, will be incurred for the completion of this side of Somerset House.

The whole extent of the new front will be 300 feet. At the south end, the new building will be kept about 25 feet behind the river front, so that the uniformity of that front may not be interfered with. All the details are to be copied exactly from existing parts of Somerset House; but the centre portion of the new front (which will not be seen from any point of view at the same time with the river front) has an attic; and the chamber windows are heightened, to meet internal requirements.

In the plan, the north wing projects about 55 feet; the south wing, about 48 feet. Our illustration shows the portion of the new wing already completed.

HARMONIC UNION, EXETER-HALL.—A secular performance is announced for Monday next, consisting of Handel's "Alexander's Feast," and G. A. Macfarren's "Lenora," which was performed with so much success last season.

Emil Devrient, the German tragedian, whose performances in London have made his name popular with the English public, is now performing with much éclat at Gotha. The reigning Duke, in token of his satisfaction, has conferred on him the insignia of the ducal order of knighthood; this is the first instance of an actor being knighted in Germany, though decorations have been lavishly bestowed on musicians.

M. Brignoli, the young Italian tenor, whose sweet voice and highly successful debut at the Italiens, under Ronconi's direction, will not be forgotten, is, it is understood, likely to appear in London during the ensuing opera season. M. Brignoli is about to leave town for Antwerp, where he is engaged for a short musical campaign as *primo tenore assoluto*. —*Galignani*.

GAMBLING IN FRANCE.—When the French Government licensed gaming-houses (which the French Government did up to 1848), a public company paid into the national exchequer the annual sum of £240,000 for the exclusive right of keeping them in Paris; and, at a trial, it came out in the course of the evidence, that the clear profit for 1837, exclusive of the duty, had been £76,000; of which three-fourths were paid to the city of Paris, leaving the lessee £19,000 for his own share.

MUSIC.

THE PROJECTED ENGLISH OPERA.

The circumstance which we mentioned a few weeks ago, as a rumour, has now assumed the shape of positive information. We are to have an attempt, at least, to establish a regular English Opera, on a scale sufficient to afford a reasonable prospect of success. The *entrepreneur* is Mr. Case, the music-seller, of New Bond-street, to whom Mr. Smith, the lessee of Drury-lane, has sublet that theatre. Mr. Case, we understand, is forming an operatic company, and is to commence his campaign in February next. He has, it appears, already engaged Mr. and Mrs. Sims Reeves, Mr. Swift, Madame Clara Novello, and Miss Louisa Pyne. Here are already the chief component parts of a strong company. Clara Novello has trod with success the highest walk on the Italian stage, while she is an Englishwoman in birth, breeding, and feelings, and, by education, a musician of the highest and most varied attainments. Louisa Pyne, during her brief career, has become a favourite of the public, as a delicious singer, and a lively, animated, and interesting actress. Mrs. Sims Reeves is a very accomplished singer, and her dramatic powers are considerable. Of Reeves himself it is unnecessary to speak: he is, *par excellence*, the English tenor; and Mr. Swift, though as yet little known to the public, has gained no small reputation abroad. We do not know who is to be the principal bass. The name of Mr. Weiss has not been mentioned; but the formation of an English operatic company without including the finest dramatic bass singer in England would be an incredible absurdity; and we therefore assume that Mr. Weiss will be among the number.

With such principal performers, and a few competent subordinates, any opera whatever may be successfully got up, whether it be of native growth, or imported from the Italian, German, or French stage; for, as we have said on a former occasion, we deprecate the adoption of any exclusive principle. Provided an opera is of intrinsic excellence, that it is judiciously adapted to the English stage, and well fitted to the powers of the performers, we care not by whom it is composed, or to what country it owes its birth. *Ceteris paribus*, we would prefer works of native growth, as well as performers of native birth; but we would not, for the sake of this consideration, deprive ourselves of superior pieces or superior performers. It was not by listening to a senseless cry of "native talent" that France has gradually attained the greatest national opera in the world. The Académie Royale de Musique has, for more than a century, been open to the composers and performers of all countries. All that was required was that the operas themselves should be in French. A long line of illustrious Italian and German composers—during the whole of this long period, and down to the present day—have devoted their energies to the Parisian stage. Duni, Glück, Piccini, Sacchini, Winter, Cherubini, Spontini, Rossini, and Meyerbeer, are only a few of those great masters to whose labours for the French stage we owe many of the brightest gems of the musical drama: the "Iphigenia in Tauris," the "Alceste," the "Armide," the "Dido," the "Vestale," the "Deux Journées," "Guillaume Tell," "Robert le Diable," the "Huguenots," and the "Prophète." Many of the great singers, moreover, on the French stage, have at all times been Italians and Germans. Among a hundred others, it is enough at present to mention the names of Madame Stoltz, Mario, and Gardoni. Now what has been the consequence of this free admission of foreign artists? Has it crushed and overwhelmed the "native talent" of France? Quite the contrary; it has had precisely the effect which many among ourselves would vainly produce by an illiberal and exclusive spirit. It has constantly maintained the high position of the French musical stage. It has incited and encouraged the native artists to emulate and contend with their foreign rivals; and, to show how successful their efforts have been, it is sufficient to mention the names, and allude to the triumphs of, Grétry (who was to all intents and purposes a Frenchman), Méhul, Boieldieu, Auber, Adam, and Halévy.

In any English opera-house, therefore, that may be established, we shall have no objection to the introduction of foreign pieces or foreign performers, supposing that the pieces are of intrinsic merit, and the performers are competent to appear on the English stage. It must be the sole object of the manager to produce the best operas, with the best singers and actors, be their origin or their country what they may; and in this object the performers themselves must concur earnestly, zealously, and unselfishly. If the green-room become the centre of cliques and cabals, caused either by national or by personal jealousy—if Mr. This thinks he is not sufficiently blazoned as a star, and Mrs. That sickens at the applause bestowed on one whom she chooses to consider a rival—then all hope of success is at an end; and the affair will terminate, as many have done before, in total failure.

Even supposing the most judicious arrangements on the part of the manager, and the best dispositions on the part of the company, they must be prepared for serious difficulties with which their Parisian brethren have not to contend. The worst of them is the degradation—almost extinction—into which English Opera has been allowed to fall. In Paris, the National Opera has ever been the most fashionable of all entertainments. The two great Opera-houses, the Académie Impériale and the Opéra Comique, attract nightly crowds of the élite of Parisian society. The librettis are often dramas of great genius and beauty, written by the most celebrated poets of the day. Since the days when Quinault wrote for Lulli, and Marmontel for Grétry and Piccini, down to our own time, when Scribe has been the literary collaborateur of Auber and Meyerbeer, this has always been the case. The writer of these remarks, in conversation with Meyerbeer, once ventured to ask him how it was that he had devoted himself to the French stage in preference to that of his own country. His answer was, that it was in France only that he could find a poem worthy of a musician. How different is the case in England we need hardly say. There is not a "poet" among us, however mediocre in talent and reputation, who would not turn up his nose at the bare notion of writing an opera. As to our composers, the case is different. The production of a successful opera is, of course, the height of their ambition; and, in their anxiety to "be doing," they will work upon any trash a playwright may put into their hands, however revolting to their own literary taste and judgment. This unfortunate state of things must undergo a change: we must have real poets to write our operas, as well as real musicians to compose them, before our musical stage can rise to a level with that of France.

This—not the only, but certainly the greatest—difficulty must be overcome; and it can be overcome only in one way—by placing the theatre on a footing of the highest respectability. Its foundation must be solid, and its resources ample; its management must be guided by large and liberal views, and its entertainments must be of distinguished excellence. There must be no favouritism, and no partiality either towards composers or performers. There must be no profusion, in compliance with the exaction of "stars," balanced by niggardly parsimony in other particulars. And there must be a complete and honourable fulfilment of every engagement, and of every pledge made to the public. It is by such means only—and we have never yet seen them employed—that our English Opera may be enabled to raise her drooping head, may command the services of the highest genius in literature as well as music, and may rise to her due position in the eyes not of England only, but of the world.

We mentioned last week the completion of St. Martin's Hall, and its opening on Thursday, the 1st of this month, with a concert of vocal and instrumental music, under the direction of Mr. Hullah, to whose energy and perseverance the public are indebted for the noblest Music-hall in the metropolis. The erection of so great a public edifice by the sole exertions, and on the sole responsibility, of a private individual—not a great capitalist, but a member of a laborious profession—is really an achievement to which we do not know of any parallel. In its complete form, St. Martin's Hall is not only, from its vast proportions, of a grand and imposing aspect, but it is also beautiful, being light, elegant, and cheerful. It is 120 feet long, 55 feet wide, and 40 feet high; the length being somewhat more than double the width, and the height one-third of the length; proportions which, being calculated to gratify the eye, have also been found most happily adapted for the purposes of music. It was observed, during the performance, that both voices and instruments sounded to the greatest possible advantage. Their tones were clear, full, and distinctly audible in every corner of the building, without any of the echo, and consequent confusion, which so often spoils the effect of music in vast localities. The interior of the hall is simple and chaste in its decoration; and the staircase and other adjuncts of the building are spacious and convenient. We have heard its situation objected to; but this objection, to which, by the way, the Royal Italian Opera is equally liable, will weigh but lightly against its great and evident advantages. The "inauguration" concert was a grand performance of Sacred and Secular Music. There was a chorus, about two hundred strong, selected from among the most advanced members of Mr. Hullah's classes, who acquitted themselves in such a manner as to do honour to

themselves and their instructor; and there was a sufficiently powerful instrumental band, consisting of our most eminent performers. As principal singers, there were Madame Viardot Garcia (herself a host), Mrs. Endersohn, Mr. and Mrs. Weiss, and Mr. Benson; and instrumental solos were performed by Miss Arabella Goddard and Mr. Blagrove. The selection of music, as might be expected from Mr. Hullah's taste and judgment, was excellent. The principal features were a "Te Deum," by Haydn, hitherto unknown in this country; several movements of a Mass by Gounod, a young French composer, whose music was first made known to the English public by Mr. Hullah; some scenes from Glück's celebrated Opera, "Orfeo," which gave Madame Viardot an opportunity of displaying her splendid dramatic powers; and Mendelssohn's "Walpurgis Night," which formed a magnificent conclusion to the concert. Every part of the hall was crowded, and a multitude of distinguished musicians and amateurs were among the audience.

The week before last, the Directors of the WEDNESDAY EVENING CONCERTS gave "A Night with Mendelssohn," which went off so well, that they were induced to give, this week, "a second night" with the same composer. It proved eminently successful; Exeter-hall being almost as crowded as on the nights of the Sacred Harmonic Society's Oratorios. In its principal features, the Concert exactly resembled the previous Mendelssohn performance. There was the same Symphony, and the same concert was executed by that charming young pianist, Mlle. Clauss. Mr. Weiss sang his favourite buffo air from "The Son and Stranger;" and several of Mendelssohn's prettiest vocal pieces were exceedingly well sung by Miss Poole, the Misses Brougham, Mr. Weiss, and Mr. Perren. The miscellaneous part of the concert consisted chiefly, as usual, of popular and well-known vocal pieces. The circumstance which created the greatest interest was the appearance of Madame Amedei, who had already made a strong impression at a previous concert. On this occasion she made an impression still stronger. She sang the fine aria, "Ah, quel giorno!" belonging to the character of *Arsace*, in the first act of "Semiramide," with a beauty of voice, a nobleness of style, and a degree of force and expression, which showed her to be one of the most accomplished dramatic singers of the day. She would be an invaluable acquisition to the Royal Italian Opera. We have had no such *contralto* after Alboni; and, were she to perform the part of *Arsace* to Grisi's *Semiramide*, Rossini's gorgeous opera would have an effect such as it has not had since Alboni left us.

THE THEATRES, &c.

HAYMARKET.

On Saturday, a new piece, being a comedy in three acts, was produced. It is by Mr. Stirling Coyne, and entitled "The Hope of the Family." The characters are a group of grotesque persons, brought together for the illustration of a cleverly-constructed story, consisting of a series of odd and whimsical incidents. First in importance is Joe Wadd (Mr. Buckstone), who is taken from the omnibus stand by a scheming attorney, Mr. D'Oily Duckweed (Mr. Chippendale), to personate Henry Melville, son to Sir William Melville, a millionaire client, hourly expected from India; the true heir having, many years ago, run away from the school of Dr. Polybius Penguin (Mr. Compton), where, having been discarded and disowned by his father, he had been brought up under the name of Jacob Brown (Mr. W. Farren). The boy, in fact, had gone to sea, and it so happens is now on board the East Indiaman, in which his unknown father and cousin are on their passage to England. The young fellow arrives just after the arrangements have been made for substituting him, and Dr. Polybius, who is in the hands of the lawyer, and compelled to obey his bidding, claims him for his illegitimate son. The comic *ris* of the piece lies with Mr. Buckstone, and his attempts at gentility, in which he is assisted by Penny (Mrs. Fitzwilliam), who acts in the joint capacity of housemaid and clerk to Duckweed, and who has a secret passion for him; but, notwithstanding all her care, the neophyte of fashion gets drunk, and betrays his want of acquaintance with the rules of decent society. The pedagogue Polybius Penguin, being dissatisfied with Duckweed, and afraid to return to his wife, is, at this juncture, induced to reveal the whole state of the case to Joe, in the hope of extorting from him a thousand pounds to keep the secret. But Joe confides the affair to Penny, who convinces the poor lad that honesty is the best policy; and, accordingly, both nefarious lawyer and schoolmaster are defeated in their design. The former, too, is victimised by the daughter of his housekeeper, Miss Selina Hufferpiper, who pretends to be the widow of a bishop with a large fortune, and who involves him, as she had already many others, in the consequences of a breach of promise of marriage. This plot was supported by dialogue especially remarkable for its vivacity and wit, and was illustrated by some remarkably beautiful scenery. That of a drawing-room ending in a conservatory, was particularly distinguishable for its good taste and felicitous arrangement. The comedy was enthusiastically received by a full house.

ADELPHI.

On Monday a new piece was produced, under the title of "The Thirst of Gold; or, The Lost Ship and Wild Flower of Mexico," translated by Mr. Webster, from "La Prière des Naufrages," by M. Denery and Dugué. It is in five tableaux, and its success mainly depends on the scenery and machinery, and in particular on the second tableau, which represents a sea of ice, with the captain of the *Eugénie*, and his wife and child, and a faithful sailor, perishing of cold and hunger among the icebergs, until the ice cracks and the sea flows in, and all sink into the rushing waters except the child Marie de Valois, who floats away on an ice-drift. This unfortunate party had been forced out to sea in a boat, from the vessel of which the husband was a commander, by an adventurer in search of Californian gold, who had induced the crew to mutiny. In the third tableau, this person appears as the Marquis d'Arvey (Mr. Webster), who is pursuing his ambitious purposes in Mexico, and there is brought into contact with an Indian girl, Unarita (Madame Celeste), who is none other than Marie de Valois, now fifteen years older. She has nearly lost her native language; but some words still linger on her lips, and little by little she recovers her recollection of the scenes of her infancy. To this development of the state of her consciousness the last two tableaux are devoted, until, by the aid of the faithful seaman above mentioned, who is also saved—Guillot, alias Putney Bill (Mr. Keeley)—the entire case against the gold and blood-thirsty Marquis is established. To increase the dramatic interest, the Marquis is made to fall in love with "the Wild Flower of Mexico," who, like another Judah, betrays the modern Holofernes into the matrimonial toils, in order the better to ensure his destruction. Ultimately, he is safely delivered into the hands of justice. The piece occupies four hours in performance, and was well acted. The house was very full, and the spectacular incidents of the new drama called forth the frequent admiration of the audience.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. WATKIN, OF THE LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

At a meeting of the officers of the Company, held at Euston-square, on Tuesday week, and presided over by the general manager, Captain Huish, it was resolved to present to Mr. Watkin—who leaves the Company's service to become the general manager of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway—a testimonial of the regard and esteem which they (his brother officers) entertain towards him. The resolution to this effect expressed the deep regret of the meeting at Mr. Watkin's retirement from the Company's service. Mr. Watkin, we believe, goes to the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Company under an engagement for five years, at £1200 per annum. We have often had occasion to notice this gentleman's railway experience, business habits, and ability; and we speak from personal knowledge when we say, that, while he carries with him the hearty good wishes of the whole of the London and North-Western executive, and every officer of the Company, he must, at the same time, enter upon his new duties with the satisfaction of feeling that a large body of the shareholders of the Company whose difficulties he will have to encounter—and, we trust, to surmount—are perfectly cognisant of the responsible position he has long held at Euston-square, and the very satisfactory manner in which he has maintained it. Few men have had larger opportunities than Mr. Watkin of becoming intimately acquainted with railway management in all its manifold ramifications; and we believe that none could, under the circumstances, have gained greater knowledge of our railway system and its requirements than that gentleman has frequently shown he possesses of both the one and the other. The Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Company may congratulate themselves upon having secured Mr. Watkin's services; for he is one amongst the few of our railway men who are really able to grapple with the very serious difficulties under which the Company unfortunately labours.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK, ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

There was a Cornish wonder, called John Opie, who died, now some half century ago, leaving a name still honourably remembered in English Art. He was discovered among the tin-mines of Cornwall, by no less a person, in those days—we refer to some “sixty years since”—than Peter Pindar. Peter (or Dr. Wolcott) was in some degree the means of bringing him to London. Opie was rough, unpolished, yet full of talent. Peter had many means of making him known: he talked about him, wrote about him, printed about him, and, still more usefully, took persons of consequence to his rooms, many of whom sat for their portraits; and some few of whom (to become an increasing number) gave commissions. His fame soon spread eastward of Temple-bar; so that, when Pitt and Nelson died, “the Cornish Wonder” was in the full blaze of his reputation; making money more rapidly than spendthrifts consume it; courted by all; in spite of “Peter,” a full Royal Academician; and, better still, a married man. Opie had a genius for art. The world was with him almost as soon as he did anything that was good. New honours were awaiting him when, some fifty years since, he died, leaving a widow—the “Amelia Opie” of thousands of readers—to regret and mourn his loss. Half a century seems a long time to roll over recollection and widowhood; yet half a century, or something very near it, has elapsed since Opie was laid in St. Paul’s Cathedral, near to Wren, but nearer to “Sir Joshua.” How strange has been the feeling, then, occasioned in literary circles by an announcement, in this week’s obituary, that the widow of “The Cornish Wonder” (still Amelia Opie) was no more—that she died, indeed, as recently as the second day of the month recognised by almanacks, and by the tacit common consent of mankind! How easily are people thrown into another generation! When you talk to the Nestor of living poets—why should we conceal his name? we allude to Mr. Rogers—do you not hear the connecting voice of the age of Gray and Mason, of Johnson and of Boswell, linked to your own? An association of the same nature, not so large we confess, is connected with the name of Amelia Opie. Her husband was the Caravaggio of English art: he drew boldly on canvas: she sketched boldly on paper. Too great an interest has, perhaps, been attached to their names, and their after reputations may, perhaps, be gathered from the often-repeated observations of the critical artist and the critical author—one calling the husband a *bad* Caravaggio; and the other calling the wife a *bad* Mrs. Inchbald. Mrs. Opie was in her eighty-fifth year.

A wild excitement has been raised in literary circles during the present week by the continued announcement of a collected edition of the works of the author of the “*Omnipresence of the Deity*.” When the first advertisement appeared, there was a supposition (very uncalculated, we confess) that the Rev. Robert Montgomery was no more, in the flesh at least, a Miltonic genius; that the poet had been very properly obscured, but raised at the same time to the more scriptural calling of a useful preacher. Mr. Jeffrey told us, though Mr. Macaulay has not re-echoed the clever criticism of his friend and adviser, that there is much—aye, much, to admire in the early lucubrations of the Oxford poet. We had thought, we confess, that “Satan” and “The Omnipresence of the Deity” had both sunk among the forgotten epics of other days—that Mr. Montgomery was no more a poet than Blackmore or Ned Howard; and that his once-popular poems had been cast to the same forgotten recesses to which the better taste of this age has condemned Mr. Hayley and Miss Seward. Yet he rises again—

For rising merit will buoy up at last;

and we are soon to be called upon to pronounce a final verdict on “the genius and the faculty divine” of the Rev. Robert Montgomery.

That still useful and improvingly useful body, the Society of Antiquaries of London, continues to suffer from the inward agitation of its newly adopted laws; laws only approved of during the present month of December. It has been the custom of this far-famed corporate body, to have at least two secretaries, neither of whom did their duty, neither of whom (as might easily be suspected) were, or are, sufficiently paid. The posts were therefore looked upon as little sinecure offices, conferring on each holder a slender salary, and an honourable position. In these days, when societies, to be of use, must at least endeavour to be useful, some hip-and-thigh utilitarians have crept in among the law-givers—the two secretaries are reduced to one (a change for the better, we confess); and the draft law, as submitted to the members is made to contain a recommendation that the new secretary should confine his whole attention to the affairs of the Society. When laws were submitted to the general body for approval, an amendment was proposed and carried, that the secretary (for the salary is but small) shall give his *best* (not his entire) attention to the Society’s affairs. Is it not desirable to have a scholar, and a man of genius, as secretary to a chartered Society? Yes, certainly! is the ready reply. Then—supposing the draft rule confirmed—why exclude scholars and men of genius, with other small chances of income, from adding to their slender and necessary receipts? Scholars and men of genius will not neglect your interests, they will advance them; a great society does not want a mere clerk—it wants (perhaps a rare combination) a scholar and a man of business. The amendment was properly carried.

Who has not heard of Pepys and his “Diary”?—who does not possess a copy of the best diary in any language? Though discovered nearly two centuries after it was written, and relating to the public and individual events of only ten years, it has, in the course of some five-and-twenty years, run through three large editions, and is now, we are glad to hear, in a new and enlarged, and more carefully annotated, edition. Lord Braybrooke, it is said, has bestowed, for the first time, great pains on its text. We shall have a few slight additions from the A.S.; and, what, perhaps, is of equal importance, some explanatory notes from “*eminent hands*,” called in by the noble Lord to make his new edition what it should be, and what his Lordship now thinks an edition of Pepys should endeavour to be like.

Literary or one-pound a year clubs are, it is said, fast dying out; they are imitating, we are told, the fate of the annuals. We can confirm the gossip of the day. Some (once-flourishing) are defunct, others are on their last legs, and scarcely one has a two-year-old spark of vitality about it. Yet we are to have a new club (even in this exhausted state), one to be called the Warton Club (thomas of Trininity, built on the ruins, and from the ruins, of the Percy Club. Tom Warton and Tom Percy were friends; and we should not trifle with honoured names. It would be hard to say, with Dryden, in allusion to this new club—

Still, Tom the second reigns like Tom the first.

Yet (with every wish for the success of the scheme) we doubt in these wintry years for subscription book societies, if the new project is at all likely to succeed.

Art during the present week has not offered anything of consequence to require preservation or comment—not that the *Table* has been silent or the *Town* indifferent, even for a week, to the claims of artists or the labours of publishers. We shall have something to say next week connected with art—its professors and its followers.

“*BIOLOG* —At the close of a “*Biological*” entertainment at Stanford the other evening, a little by-play occurred, which led to an *entertainment*. A boy had been offered a shilling to induce him to speak when the lecturer said he could not; the lecturer, according to the statement, promised him half-a-crown not to speak; and when the lad went for the larger bribe he was refused it! The other boys then declared that they had been tutored the night before by the lecturer, and promised 1s. 6d. each for their part of the exhibition, and they stated that their “susceptibility” was a sham all the way thro

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. C. C.—“Touch and move” is a positive rule among all good players. Indeed, there can be no good play when this rule is not enforced. ALMERIC.—At move 26 of game 21 in the impending match, there is no Pawn which White’s Kt can take. You must have forgotten that, at move 21, Black played P to K Kt 3rd. J. H., Bradford.—You have forgotten to furnish the particulars of the newly-formed club and to send your own address. C. F. S. and V. G.—Your games by correspondence shall have attention the moment the present long-pending contest is over. SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 411, by Clericus, Alpha, F. G. Wells, Norfolk, Bushy, J. A. C., Magnet, G. P., G. P. S., are correct. SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 412, by Derevon, J. P., Pug, Subaltern, L. S. D., Medicu J. an. Ernest, Grindley, R. S., True Blue, Semper Eadon, Job, Spilux, are correct. SOLUTIONS OF ENIGMAS, by Josephus, Philip, Harreviensis, L. S. D., Argus, Plenipo-Medicus, are correct. All others are wrong.

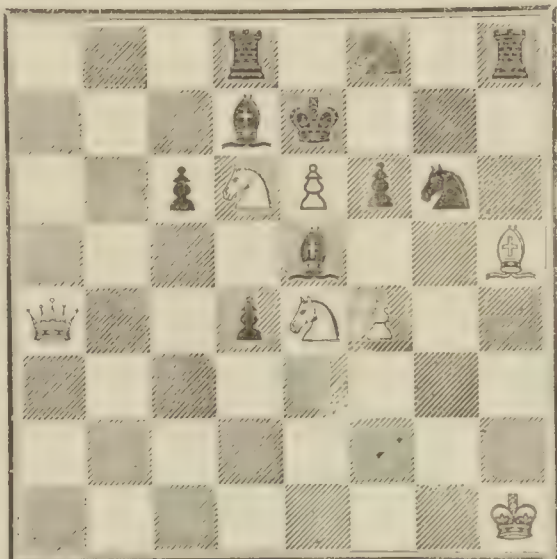
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 507.

WHITE. BLACK. WHITE. BLACK.
1. Kt to Q 2nd B tks Kt (best) 4. Kt from K 3rd to Q takes Kt
2. Kt to Q 4th (ch) K to Q 4th K Kt 4th (ch)
3. Kt to K 3rd (ch) K to his 4th 5. Kt to K B 7th (ch) K to K B 4th
6. B takes B—Mate.

PROBLEM No. 513.

By E. B. C., of Princeton, U.S.

BLACK.



White plays first, and gives mate in five moves.

MATCH BETWEEN MESSRS. LOWENTHAL AND HARRWITZ.

At length Mr. Löwenthal has broken the spell which bound him for the last six weeks, and scored another game. The result of the whole play when we write gives—

Lowenthal ..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Harrwitz ..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Drawn ..	..	..	..	..	..	10

The following was the 25th Game of this extraordinary combat:—
(Philidor’s Defence to the Kt’s Opening.)

WHITE (Mr. L.)	BLACK (Mr. H.)	WHITE (Mr. L.)	BLACK (Mr. H.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	29. B to Q B 5th	P to K R 4th
2. Kt to K B 3rd	P to Q 3rd	30. B to Q 4th	K R to K Kt 3rd
3. P to Q 4th	P takes P	31. Q to K B 5th	K to R 2nd
4. Q takes P	Kt to K B 3rd	32. Q R to K 8th	Q to K B 2nd
5. B to Q Kt 5th	B to Q 2nd	33. Q takes Q	Q R takes Q
6. B takes Kt (a)	B takes B	34. K R to Q Kt sq	K R to Q 3rd
7. B to K Kt 5th	P to K B 3rd	35. K R to Q Kt sq	Kt to K R 3rd
8. B to K R 4th	Kt to K R 3rd	36. B to Q 5th	K R to Q 2nd
9. Kt to Q B 3rd	B to K 2nd	37. P to Q R 4th	Kt to K B 4th
10. Castles on K’s side	Castles	38. P to Q R 5th	P to Q 5th
11. Q to her B 4th (ch) (b)	K to R sq	39. P takes P	Kt takes P
12. Kt to Q 4th	B to Q 2nd	40. P to K R 3rd (c)	Kt to Q Kt 4th (d)
13. Q R to Q 3rd (e)	P to Q B 3rd	41. Q R takes K P	K R to Q 8th (ch)
14. Kt to K 6th (d)	B takes Kt	42. K to his R 2nd	K R to Q 5th (ch)
15. Q takes B	Kt to K B 2nd	43. B to Q Kt 6th	P R to K B 4th
16. Kt to K 2nd	Q to K sq	44. P to K Kt 4th	P takes P
17. Q to her Kt 3rd (e)	P to K B 4th (f)	45. P takes P	Q R to K B 6th
18. B to K Kt 3rd	P takes P	46. K to Kt 2nd	Q R to Q B 6th
19. Q takes Q Kt P	Q R to Q Kt sq	47. Q R to K 5th (m)	K R to Q 5th
20. Q takes Q Kt P	Q R takes Q Kt P	48. P to K B 3rd	K R to Q 7th (ch)
21. K R to K sq	P to Q 4th (g)	49. K to Kt 3rd	Kt to Q 3rd
22. Kt to Q 4th	B to K B 3rd	50. Q R to K 7th	K R to Q R 5th
23. P to Q B 3rd (h)	B takes Kt	51. K R to Q 8th (n)	Kt to K 5th (ch)
24. R takes B	Kt to K R 3rd	52. K to R 4th	Kt to R B 3rd
25. Q R to R 3rd (i)	Q R to Q Kt 2nd	53. K R to Q 4th	K R to Q 6th
26. B to Q 6th	K R to K B 3rd	54. P to K Kt 5th	Kt to Q 4th
27. Q R to Q R 4th	Kt to K Kt sq	55. K R tks Kt (o)	P takes R
28. Q R to Q 8th	K to K 3rd	56. B to Q 4th	Q R to Q B 5th
		57. K to K B 5th (p)	Kt to Kt sq (q)

(The game having now lasted about twelve hours, and both players being thoroughly exhausted, as well they might be, it was adjourned until the next play-day. It was then carried on as follows:—

58. B takes K Kt P	K R tks K B P	63. R to Q Kt 7th	K to his sq
59. K to Kt 6th	Q R to Q B sq	64. B takes P	K R to Q R 4th
60. B to K B 6th	K to B sq	65. B to K B 6th	K R to Q R 3rd
61. P to Q R 6th	P to Q R 6th	66. K to his Kt 7th	R takes P
62. P to Q R 7th	P to Q 5th		(r)

And the game is drawn (s).

- (a) The usual move here is Q to her sq.
(b) A little premature, perhaps. This check might have been kept in reserve, and another piece brought into action.
(c) White’s pieces are now much better developed than his opponent’s; but Mr. L. does not make so much of his superior position as it admits.
(d) We should have preferred playing the Bishop to K Kt 3rd. By moving the Kt to K 6th, White exchanges a piece of his own, which is capitally stationed, for one of his adversary’s quite out of play.
(e) Surely better even now to have played the Bishop to K Kt 3rd. Kt to Q 4th would also have been more to the purpose than retreating the Queen.
(f) A good move; freeing his men and gaining a valuable Pawn.
(g) Taking the Q P Pawn would have been very imprudent.
(h) This looks tame. We should rather have challenged an exchange of Rooks; and cannot help thinking, had he done so, Mr. Löwenthal would have got a manifest advantage in a few moves. Let us suppose—
(i) Q R to Q Kt sq B takes Kt (for R tks B, see Variation) Q to K 2nd
(j) Q takes B R takes Kt P, or *
* 24. R to Q Kt 7th R takes Q B P
25. Q to Q Kt 8th Q to K 2nd
26. Q to Q R 5th, and Black cannot possibly save the game.

23. Q R to Q Kt sq R takes R 25. R takes B Kt takes B (best)
24. R takes R B to K 4th 26. R to Q Kt 7th
With a fine game, in spite of Black’s formidable array of Pawns.
(i) From this point White has again the superiority of position.
(k) A wise precaution. He is secure of gaining the King’s Pawn ultimately.
(l) The best move he had to prevent the advance of White’s dangerous-looking Pawn.
(m) In an earlier part of the match we are pretty sure the Hungarian would not have let slip so valuable an opportunity of improving his game as now presents itself. If he had played his K Rook to Q Kt 7th, he must, if we mistake not, have not only won another Pawn, but have exchanged the pieces, and thus have almost ensured the victory. For example—
47. K R to Q Kt 7th Kt to Q 3rd
(He appears to have no better move.)
48. K R takes K Kt P (ch) K takes R (best) 51. R to K 6th R to Q 4th (best)
49. B to Q 4th (ch) K to Kt sq (best) 52. B to Kt 4th, and wins the Q B P at least.
50. B takes R R takes Q P (best)
(n) We are sure this is not so sound and safe as playing the Rook to K B 8th.
(o) Why run any risk? The game is easily won without sacrifice.
(p) Threatening mate in two moves.
(q) It must be evident to every player of experience that, at this period, White has an easy victory before him. So plain, indeed, is his course, that we could find many British amateurs to whom a first-rate master might give the odds of a Kt, who would take the position and win against the world.
(r) How, after abundant time for rest and reflection on every move of this end game, at the crisis, too, of an all-important contest, an old stager like Philidor could suffer himself to be trapped thus, would have bred wonder in us a month ago. We have become so accustomed, however, in this match, to oversights, miscalculations, and blunders of all sorts, that we have ceased to feel surprised at anything which occurs. Five minutes’ consideration must have shown him that, by playing his King thus, he enables Black to draw the game; while, by moving the King to K 7th, he wins the game at once.
(s) Ingeniously enough. If White take the Rook, then Black plays his other Rook to Q B 2nd, giving check; and if White take the Rook, his adversary is stalemated; and if he does not take the Rook, then he loses his own Rook, and the game must be equally drawn.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

GENERAL SIR AUGUSTUS DE BUTTS, K.C.H.

THE death of this gallant and much-esteemed officer, Colonel Commandant of the Royal Engineers, occurred on the 28th ult., at his residence, No. 14, Cambridge-square.
Sir Augustus was born in 1770, the son of Elias de Butts, Esq., of the county of Wicklow, and, in 1787, entered the Royal Engineers as Second Lieutenant. He participated in the sieges of Toulon and Bastia, and was very favourably mentioned by Lord Hood, in his de-patch, on the surrender of the latter place. In 1797 he obtained the commission of Captain, in 1814 was made Regimental Colonel, in 1821 became Major-General, in 1827 was appointed Colonel Commandant of the Royal Engineers, and in 1851 reached the full rank of General.
Sir Augustus married, in 1804, the daughter of Francis Minchin, Esq., and had issue.

SIR CHARLES WITHAM.

THIS gentleman, who died on the 30th ult. at his residence, Higham, Suffolk, in the sixty-third year of his age, was the third son of William Witham, Esq., by Dorothy, his wife, daughter of Thomas Langdale, Esq., and grandson of Thomas Witham, M.D., of Durham, whose father, William Witham, Esq., of Cliffe, represented one of the oldest Catholic families in Yorkshire.
Sir Charles received the honour of Knighthood in Ireland in 1830. By profession he was a naval officer, having entered the service in 1808, and became Lieutenant in 1818. He married Miss Jane Hloy, and had a daughter, Constantia.

ELLIS CUNLIFFE LISTER KAY, ESQ.

THIS gentleman died on the 24th ult., in his eighty-third year. Descended from two of the oldest families in the north of England—the Cunliffes of Lancashire, and the Listers of Gisburne—he well sustained his position in society. He acted as Deputy-Lieutenant for the West Riding of Yorkshire, was a County Magistrate, and represented for nine years the borough of Bradford in Parliament.
He was eldest son of John Cunliffe, Esq., of Fairfield Hall, by Mary, only daughter of the Rev. William Thompson, and grandson of Ellis Cunliffe, Esq., of Ilkley, by Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of the Rev. Thomas Lister.
He was thrice married: first, to his cousin, Ruth Myers, niece of Samuel Lister, Esq., of Manningham, which lady died s. p.; secondly, to Mary, daughter of William Kay, Esq., of Cottingham, by whom (who died 6th March, 1845) he leaves a numerous issue; and, thirdly, to Eliza Mellifont, widow of George Mellifont, and niece of the first Lady Talbot of Malahide.
In 1821 he assumed the name and arms of Lister, on succeeding to the Mannington estates, which have been in the family for more than 300 years; and, in 1842, he again altered his appellation, by adopting the surname of Kay, on becoming possessed of the estates of William Kay, Esq., of Cottingham.

JAMES EWING, ESQ.

JAMES EWING, Esq., of Strathlinen, who died on Tuesday, the 29th ult., at his own residence in Glasgow, was the leading member of the well-known firm of James Ewing and Co., West India merchants. Like the majority of our merchant princes, he was the artificer of his own fortune. At the general election of 1832, consequent on the passing of the Reform-bill, Mr. Ewing was returned as one of the members for Glasgow. Up to that period Mr. Ewing was recognised as a member of the Conservative party, when he saw it to be his duty to make some concession of his views, and took a more liberal stand in politics. He was a man of considerable literary attainment, an enthusiastic bibliophile, and was honoured by having the degree of LL.D. conferred on him by the Senatus of the University of Glasgow. He was also a man of refined taste in high art, of which he was a generous patron. He evinced a lively interest in the advancement of native talent, and not a few owe their success in life to his generous interposition, when struggling with honourable poverty at the outset of their career. A considerable time ago Mr. Ewing retired from active life, but his interest in every philanthropic movement continued unflagging. A large portion of the princely fortune which he had amassed was devoted to charitable purposes, and many local benevolent institutions have experienced his liberality in no small degree: it was but last summer that Mr. Ewing gave a munificent donation of £10,000 as the nucleus of a permanent sustentation fund for the support of the ministers of the Free Church of Scotland. The deceased gentleman was in his seventy-ninth year.

THE REV. JOHN SEPTIMUS GROVER, LATE VICE-PROVOST OF ETON COLLEGE.

THE Rev. John Septimus Grover, Fellow of Eton, and until within the last eighteen months, Vice-Provost of the College, died the 28th ult., in London, where he had been sojourning for a short time, in order to be under medical care. Mr. Grover, a Fellow of King’s College, Cambridge, was elected a Fellow of Eton on the 9th February, 1814; and at the period of his decease, had held the appointment almost forty years. He succeeded Dr. Langford, Canon of Windsor, who was Lower Master of Eton from 1775 to 1802. In 1817, Mr. Grover was presented to the Rectory of Farnham Royal, a living in the gift of the College, and worth about £700 a year. About a year and a half ago, in consequence of increasing years and infirmities, he was compelled to resign the office of Vice-Provost, and the Rev. Mr. Bethell, another of the Fellows of Eton, was appointed in his stead. At the time of his death, Mr. Grover had attained his eighty-seventh year. By his demise, the living of Farnham Royal becomes vacant, as well as one of the Fellowships of the College.

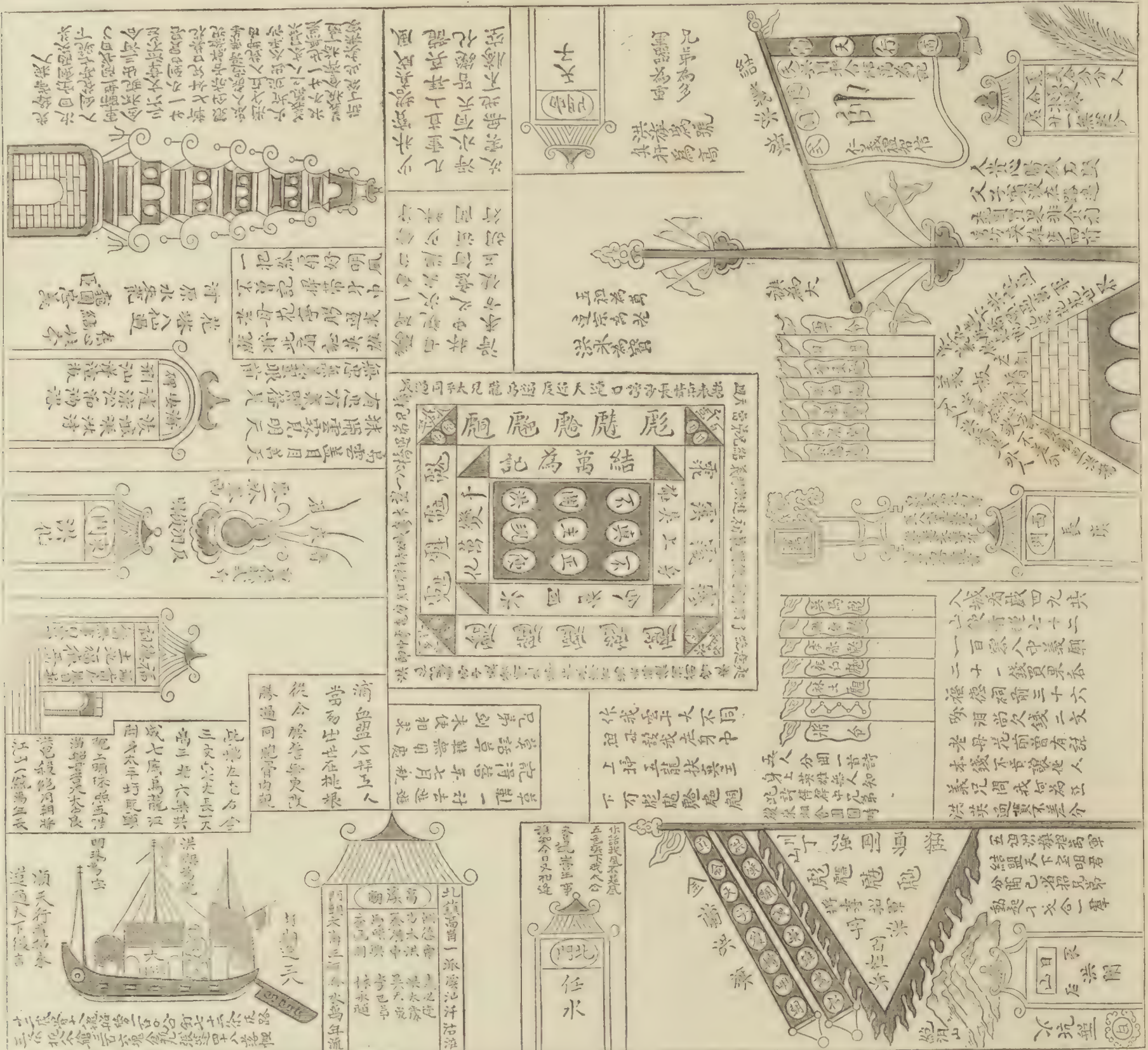
GREAT FIRE IN UPPER THAMES-STREET.—At midnight on Saturday, a large building, occupied by Messrs. Selby and Co., the proprietors of the Birmingham Brass and Iron Tubing Company; Messrs. Gosnell and Co., hair-brush manufacturers and perfumers; and Mr. Saunders, paper box and bag manufacturer, in Upper Thames-street, was discovered to be on fire. The building in question was between eighty and ninety feet high; it contained seven spacious floors, used as manufactories or warehouses. The flames at one time shot twenty or thirty feet above the opposite church steeple; but, in consequence of the dense fog, were scarcely perceptible at the water’s edge. They increased so rapidly that the services of the steam float at Southwark-bridge were called into use, but the keepers of it had great difficulty in finding the scene of danger. Six hundred feet of hose were then stretched out, but, notwithstanding, the many tons of water momentarily scattered over the conflagration, floor after floor kept falling, until five had been cast down. Some of the firemen narrowly escaped. They entered the floor on fire at one end, and while directing the hose, the flames shot to the other end of the warehouse, and fired the whole of that part of the premises. Fortunately, they succeeded in gaining the street; but they were nearly stifled with hot smoke. The flames were not entirely subdued till Monday evening. The loss of property will amount to many thousands pounds, but the chief part is insured.

FORESTS ON FIRE.—A letter from Otiz (Transylvania), of November 23, states that so thick a smoke arises from several forests of that country, which are on fire, that it is impossible to carry on the ordinary agricultural pursuits. In addition, the letter declares, the atmosphere is so saturated with acrid emanations, as to seriously affect the sight and breathing. It was found impossible to extinguish the conflagration by ordinary means; and the authorities, civil and military have been convoked to take the subject into consideration.

THE CHINESE REBELLION.

WE present to our readers the fac-simile of a document of considerable interest in reference to the extraordinary events which are taking place in China. It is the credential of the reception of a member of the Triad Society, which for generations has been seeking to undermine and overthrow the Tartar dynasty, and which has furnished its main supports to the insurrection which now so seriously menaces the subversion of the reigning Imperial family.

The document is not intended to be understood by the uninitiated; and even in China, we have reason to know that it is the subject of much curiosity and inquiry. We cannot discover in it any reference whatever to Christian doctrines; but it is full of mystical allusions whose solution may afford amusement to those who have any knowledge of the Chinese language. The name of Hung very frequently occurs; and Hung is supposed to be the representative of the descendant of the Ming dynasty who were conquered and superseded by the ruling Manchoes. On the Great Banner are inscribed the names of the principal virtues—such as, religion, truthfulness, benevolence, courtesy, knowledge, faith. On the four sides are temples, bearing the titles of the Northern and Southern, the Eastern and Western Gates, through which the accepted are privileged to enter. A seven-storied Pagoda connects the Triads with the religious sentiments of the Chinese people; and there are various altars commemorative of happiness, benevolence, prudence, repose, obedience. A sailing-vessel is found connected with



THE REBELLION IN CHINA.—CREDENTIAL OF A MEMBER OF THE TRIAD SOCIETY.

symbols of universal sovereignty, and there are many signs which allude to the promised advent of Hung as Tien-tsz', or the Son of Heaven—one of the common titles of the Emperor of China. Fourteen small flags point to the functions of the Bannermen, who cut an important figure in the military history of China. There are subordinate flags, which bear testimony to the courageous virtues which are exhibited by the supporters of Hung. Incense vases bear their odours to the gods. The head of the insurgents has taken to himself the name of Hung, but there is no reason whatever to believe that he is in any way connected with the ancient Imperial race; indeed, he has put forward no such claim, but has chosen rather to designate himself as a son of the "Heavenly Father." The Amoy rebels have, however, distinctly proclaimed themselves members of the Triad Society, and confederated to re-establish the national Chinese dynasty.

We add a Sketch of the boats of her Majesty's ship *Hermes* ascending the Yang-tse-Kiang river, upon which, at the date of the last advice, the Imperial authorities at Shanghai, were still maintaining offensive

operations against the insurgents. Our second Engraving is a Sketch of Amoy Harbour, the scene of continually recurring conflicts between the Imperialists and the insurgents. The Sketches were taken in the present year, by Mr. Williams, whose diary describing the expedition of the *Hermes* boats up the Yang-tse-Kiang, appeared in this Journal of the 5th ult.

RACES NEAR WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND.

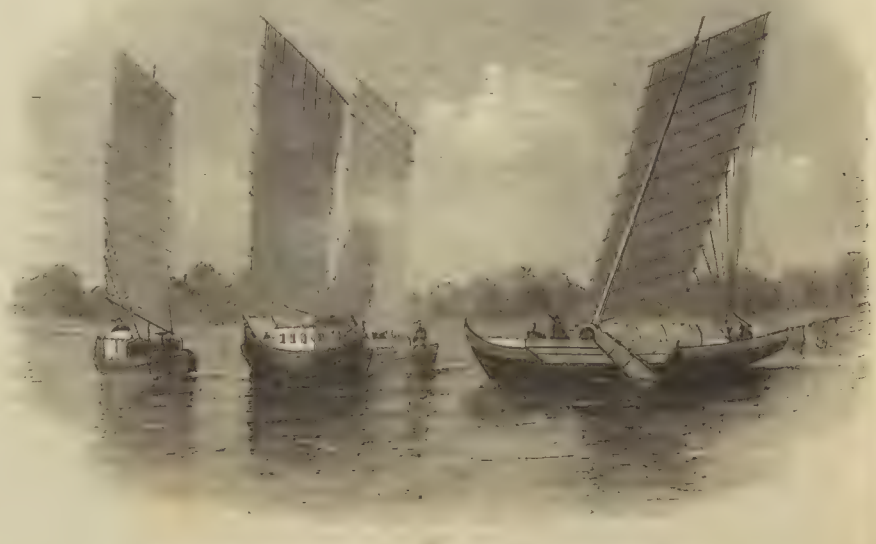
The two leading characteristics of the Anglo-Saxon branch of the human family are admitted to be—that restless activity which leads them to occupy the earth and subdue it; and that strong attachment to the laws and customs, and even the sports and amusements, of their native land, by which they are impelled to reproduce in the most distant parts of the world the old familiar scenes. Thus, the town of Wellington had scarcely risen from its foundations, when an attempt was made, and not altogether without success, to transfer to the runs of New Ulster some

portion of the attractions which annually draw thousands to the Downs of Epsom. For their horses, New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land have supplied New Zealand with a strong, hardy breed, that is itself a cross between some horses brought by the Australian colonists from England, and some Arabs subsequently imported.

Our Engraving represents the race-course of the Plain or Valley of the Wairarapa, so called from the lake of that name; this race-course is about thirty-nine miles from Wellington, and is beautifully situated at the back water-flats of the river Rhuamahunga; being bounded on the one side by the stream, on the other by the bush—the blue line of which may be seen in our sketch, extending along the base of the hills. These races take place annually, in the height of the summer—that is to say, in January or February; and are attended by a gay crowd of visitors, both ladies and gentlemen: the former of whom, indeed, take such interest in the sport, that we find in 1853 a whip was given by the fair ones of the valley, which was competed for under the title of the "Ladies' Whip." The races are—the Wairarapa



SKETCH IN AMOY HARBOUR.



BOATS OF "THE HERMES" ON THE YANG-TSE-KIANG RIVER.



IMPROVED SHORT-HORNS, PURCHASED FOR THE UNITED STATES.

IMPROVED SHORT-HORNS.

Stakes, the Grazing Purse, and the Consolation Stakes. This exciting diversion arouses even the natives from their usual apathy; and not only do they muster on the ground in full force, but many of them enter horses for the race: thus, in 1852, the programme comprises the names of Manihera's ch. g. Jack, Naturie's gr. m. Kaipanga, and Nero's bl. g. Wairongomai; and in 1853 the name of Manihera figures in the list of stewards.

These plains, however, afford interest and amusement to the botanist no less than the sporting man. Thus in the long line of plants and shrubs which reaches across the foreground of our Engraving, are comprised an arborescent fern, termed by the natives *mamaku*, or *pitan*—whose stem consists of an edible pulp, from which the early colonists contrived to manufacture a tolerably respectable imitation of apple-tart; the *Towli towli*, a reed, whose cane-coloured seed-stem frequently rises to the height of six feet, from a whirl of leaves four feet in length; and last, though assuredly not least in importance, the *Phormium-tenax*, or native flax, of which our readers will need no description.

Those, again, who are admirers of natural scenery, will find their taste gratified by the glorious landscape around them; so that, on the whole, we believe few indeed, if any, will return disappointed from a visit to the race-course of the Wairarapa.

THE extraordinary prices paid during the past year for favourite individuals and families of this well-known breed of cattle, must have been remarked by all those interested in stock breeding or in agriculture, as an evidence of the growing popularity of this breed at home and abroad. The foreign demand has been large, though chiefly confined to America, to whose climate and rich pastures short-horns seem peculiarly adapted. Accordingly, the bidders from the United States strongly competed with the English breeders at the Great Tortworth Sale; when the Americans carried off both the celebrated Duchess-tribe Bulls, and four out of the eight females of the same family, all at very high prices. Of these four, three were purchased by Mr. J. Thorne, of New York; and, with a number of other animals, were shipped from Southampton by the steamer *Hermann*. Our Artist saw them on their way through London, and thus secured portraits of several of them. The group in the Engraving consists of the roan cow, Duchess (59), bred by Mr. Bates, of Kirkleavington, and bought at the Tortworth sale for 350 guineas; she is mother of the bull, Duke of Gloster, who was purchased by Messrs. Morris and Becar, of New York, for 650 guineas. Behind her is Duchess (68), a yearling, bought at the same sale for 300 guineas, and promising

to make a very superior animal. The two heifers on the left are from the celebrated herd of Charles Townley, Esq. They have been winners of numerous prizes in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Ireland, &c., &c. Among them may be mentioned the Royal Agricultural Society's show at Lewes, last year. The other animals of the lot were from the well-known herds of the late Earl Ducie, Mr. Bolden, Mr. Tanqueray, &c., and are excellent specimens of their respective stocks. Among the number may be particularised the bull Grand Duke, whose portrait was given in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of October 17. By some oversight, the name of Mr. Thorne, his present owner, was not even mentioned: he is also the sole owner of Grand Duke, whilst the bull Comet, from whom Grand Duke is directly descended, was purchased by a company of four gentlemen for the same price—1000 guineas. The Duke of Gloster was also bought for 650 guineas, by several individuals; so that Mr. Thorne's single-handed enterprise and liberality is entitled to mention.

The prices paid for these animals were high; yet the selection showed that discrimination and judgment and an intimate acquaintance with this description of stock had guided the large outlay. They were selected by Mr. Rotch, of Otsego, county New York, who came to England for the purpose; and after visiting the principal shows and sales here, collected the admirable lot we had the pleasure of seeing.



RACES ON THE PLAIN OF THE WAIRARAPA, NEAR WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, December 11.—3rd Sunday in Advent.
 MONDAY, 12.—Lord Hood born, 1724. Cromwell declared Protector, 1653.
 TUESDAY, 13.—St. Lucy. Dr. Johnson died, 1784.
 WEDNESDAY, 14.—Ember Week. Washington died, 1799.
 THURSDAY, 15.—Earl Stanhope died, 1816.
 FRIDAY, 16.—Cambridge and Oxford Terms end.
 SATURDAY, 17.—Guy, founder of the celebrated Hospital, died, 1724.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 17, 1853.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
11 20	11 20	11 20	11 20	11 20	11 20	11 20
Tide	0 15	0 35	0 55	1 15	1 35	1 55

GRAND CHRISTMAS NUMBER,

1853.

On SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24th, will be published a GRAND EXTRA NUMBER of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, for CHRISTMAS-DAY; with a variety of Splendid Engravings Illustrative of the Amusements for the Season. Part of this magnificent Number will be printed in Paris.

To secure Copies, immediate Orders must be given to all News-agents.

Further particulars will appear in next week's Paper.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1853.

At the beginning of the week a ray of hope illumined the political horizon, upon the announcement—which seemed to come with official guarantees—that Austria and Prussia had accepted the proposals of England and France for concerting measures, with a view to the settlement of the Russo-Turkish question. Indeed, the information given by one leading journal upon the subject was very ample, and carefully reasoned; setting forth the precise terms of settlement upon which the four Great Powers were prepared to insist—including, of course, amongst other points, the immediate evacuation of the Principalities, and the substitution of a modified Protectorate over the Christian subjects of the Porte, in the Christian States of Europe, instead of the pretended protectorate in the single hands of Russia, which the latter pretends to, under the Treaty of Kaimadji. In a word, the whole question which had puzzled the diplomatists of Europe for so many months was now about to be settled in its minutest details; and a Treaty of Peace was foreshadowed which should place the European balance in the East upon a surer and more equitable footing than it had ever before enjoyed, or than had ever been hoped for by any of the last generation of politicians. Although there are many who did not at once give credence to so favourable a *dénouement*—hardly conceiving it possible that either Austria or Prussia should presume to join in a course of policy which might possibly become one of coercion against their terrible neighbour Russia—there were some who fancied they saw their way through the difficulty; discerning, in this proceeding of our German allies, a timely move, at the suggestion of Russia herself—such a move as should render an act of concession possible to her with dignity, inasmuch as it would be performed in obedience to the stern necessity involved in a confederacy of all the great European Powers against her. This idea was confirmed by certain revelations, which contemporaneously appeared, of the sudden awakening of the good Emperor Nicholas to the real facts of the case, and how grievously he had been deceived all along by his chosen agent Menschikoff, who was now to be disgraced and dismissed. In short, it was generally believed that the Czar had begun to see the error of his ways, and was prepared to retrace them with as much grace as might be compatible with his truly awkward position, in obedience to the dictates of reason, and the behests of his European Allies.

Such was the cheering picture indulged in during the greater part of a whole day, in the City, during which the Funds went up like a football, and business went on merrily, as of yore, before the Eastern crisis was thought of. The delusion, however, was of short duration. The second editions of the morning papers of Wednesday contained a telegraphic despatch from Vienna, which put the affair in its true light, and fully verified the apprehensions which we expressed last week as to the extent and nature of the co-operation the independent Governments of the West of Europe were likely to receive from the German States in this matter. From this despatch it appears that Austria and Prussia have merely gone to the extent of agreeing with England and France upon the terms of a collective note; but without any pledges as to the course of policy to be adopted in case that new diplomatic effort should fail of realising its object. It is further stated that Austria has the modesty to require that the future negotiations should be removed to Vienna, where her efforts were before so successful—in the cause of mischief.

We are bound, then, to reiterate what we have said again and again—that it is folly to seek for aid in the councils of Austria and Prussia in this affair; that they are not in a position even to give us honest independent advice, much less material co-operation; and that their only motives in pretending to assent to our pacific views, is to afford them the opportunity of mixing themselves up in our proceedings in the hope of influencing or obstructing them in the interests of Russia. Those, therefore, who have indulged in sanguine hopes of a peaceful solution of this long-pending difficulty, may rest assured that that desirable consummation is just as far off as it was six months ago; and that it will continue as far off—so long as England and France consent to mix themselves up with Governments which have neither the power nor the will to behave honestly by them.

And even if the Four Powers of Europe could, by a miracle, become armed upon a common object and a common course of policy in this matter, are the contending elements, the principals between whom they would mediate, in a condition which would render their immediate submission a matter of certainty, or reasonably to be expected? Sacrifices, either in respect of matters in actual enjoyment or "in supposition" must be made on one side or the other; perhaps, on both. The Russian galled to madness by unexpected and ignominious defeat—the

Turk elated by repeated and dazzling successes: will the former consent to withdraw incontinently from the field, giving up all the pretensions with which he entered it? will the latter look no further back than to the day when his old enemy, in audacious infraction of treaties, marched his armies across the frontiers bitterly conceded in the day of the Osmanli's distress? May not Turkey, if she see the probability of continued success attending her new-found arms, resolve on seizing the occasion to wipe out the indignities and redress the wrongs of a whole century; to recover her territory as it was when Peter the Great first framed the programme of her subjugation; or when Catherine II. insolently inscribed over the gates of Kherson, "The road to Constantinople"? It would be worse than madness to undervalue the difficulties which surround this question, and which become every day more complicated. We must add that it will be mad and criminal longer to delay dealing effectually with this matter, which threatens Europe to its very core.

LONDON and Paris are both afflicted with a municipal tax upon combustibles. The City of London levies a heavy impost upon coal, while Paris taxes wood—the ostensible object of both being the embellishment and improvement of the capital city of a great nation. The Commission which is now sitting to inquire into the abuses which have crept into the Corporation of London has already brought into fuller light than before the hardship inflicted by the coal-tax upon the large district that lies within a circuit of 120 miles around the metropolis. Yet it must be confessed that the tax has been productive of some benefit. To the large sums derived from it we owe London-bridge and its new approaches, the Coal Exchange, and the opening-up of Cannon-street—all within the limits of the City; together with New Oxford-street, and the splendid approach, now in course of construction, from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey. A great city must have great revenues for the purposes of improvement; or it must be dependent upon the State for the construction of new streets, the erection of public edifices, and the general care of public works. London depends to some extent upon both. The City levies its tax, and hands over about three-fourths of the proceeds to the State, on behalf of those portions of the metropolis over which its own jurisdiction does not extend. In this respect, as in many others, the labours of the Commission now sitting will, in all probability, bring about a reform.

But there is a reform still more urgently needed, which we fear that neither the Commission nor the Government will be able to operate. London will continue to burn coal, whether it be taxed or untaxed. If, by any possibility, it could be induced to burn its own smoke as well as its own coal, it would do more towards its own embellishment and improvement than has ever been done by its ancient Corporation, or by all the Commissioners of Woods and Forests that have ever existed. Already a beginning has been made; and the chimneys of manufactories and printing-offices, and all establishments that make use of steam-power, are no longer to be permitted to pollute the London sky, by pouring out their daily and nightly clouds. Such establishments must consume their own smoke, or cease to exist within the limits of the metropolis. But until science shall discover some mode whereby the smoke nuisance may be utterly abolished in private houses as well as in manufactories, London will remain almost as dingy as before. Its atmosphere will be heavy with floating soot; its noble cathedrals will be encrusted with black, and its wayfarers and inhabitants who wish to be clean will have to wash their hands and faces thrice as often as is necessary in those cities of the Continent where the people burn wood.

London has hitherto been unable to prevent the smoke nuisance; but Paris, by means of an impolitic tax, has been gradually approaching to a state of atmosphere, which will not allow it, with any justice, to reproach London for being dingy. Paris owes much of its attractions to its clear skies—and clear skies would no longer crown it, if its million of inhabitants burned coal instead of wood. Yet coal is rapidly superseding wood in that capital. We learn from an article in the *Journal des Debats*, that in the year 1799 fire-wood was free from taxation. In the year 1800 a tax of 1 franc per stere was levied upon it. In the year 1816 the tax was increased to 1 franc 65 centimes; in 1833, to 2 francs 99 centimes; and in 1852, to 3 francs 18 centimes. Complaints having arisen that wood was thus rendered too dear, the City of Paris determined upon a remedy. But, instead of untaxing wood, it bethought itself of untaxing coal. In 1818 the tax on coal was reduced to 55 centimes (5½d.) per hectolitre; and, in 1852, to 36 centimes. The consequences may be imagined. The consumption of wood has rapidly decreased, and that of coal has as rapidly augmented. In 1817, when the population of Paris was 700,000, the annual consumption of wood was 1,000,000 of steres. In 1853, with a population of upwards of a million, the consumption of wood is but half a million of steres. The consumption of coal was, in the year 1816, about 673,000 hectolitres; in the year 1851 it had increased to 3,625,000 hectolitres. The consumption in 1852 and 1853 has not been published; but it is notoriously much greater than in the years preceding. Let Paris beware, therefore, and untax wood as fast as it can; or it will soon be in a condition as bad as London. There is, however, no occasion to despair of the ultimate purity of either capital. No sane man in our day attempts to limit the capabilities of science; and it is not hoping too much to anticipate that ere many years shall elapse, the smoke nuisance will go the way of the oil lamps and the stage-coaches; and be only remembered by old people, or in the pages of novelists and romance writers. But, in the meantime, Paris, with a cloud of smoke hanging over it, will cease to be the Queen of Pleasure, or the most beautiful city in Europe.

GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN SCOTLAND.—It is stated that Government has just purchased the large block of houses in Waterloo-place, Edinburgh, for Government offices. This purchase, which has been in contemplation for a period of two years, has been effected at a cost of about £10,000.

SCOTCH LAW LORDS.—No fewer than nine Judges have taken their seats on the Scottish bench since the beginning of the year 1850.

COURT OF ENCUMBERED ESTATES.—The *Daily Express* gives currency to a rumour prevalent in Dublin, to the effect that Baron Richards is about to retire from the Chief Commissionership of the Encumbered Estates Court, and that his place is to be filled by Mr. Vincent Scully, M.P., who is well known for his writings on the Irish land question.

THE COURT.

The usual hospitalities of the Court are for the present postponed, owing to the lamented death of the Queen of Portugal. The only addition to the Royal Circle this week has been her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, who arrived at Osborne, on Saturday last, from Frogmore, and has since remained on a visit.

The Duke and Duchess de Brabant were to close their visit to her Majesty and the Prince Consort yesterday (Friday), and leave Osborne for Brussels direct.

On Sunday last the Queen and Prince, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and Princess Alice, were present at the morning service at Whimpey Church. The Rev. G. Prothero officiated.

On Monday the Queen and Prince, accompanied by the Duchess de Brabant, took equestrian exercise in the vicinity of Osborne. The Earl of Clarendon, Count Lavradio (Portuguese Minister), and Gen. Lopez (on a mission from Paraguay), arrived at Osborne on Monday, and had audiences of the Queen. The noble Earl and the Portuguese Minister had the honour of joining the Royal dinner party.

The Prince Consort has enjoyed the sport of shooting in Park-hurst Forest during the week.

Lord Alfred Paget has relieved Lord Charles Fitzroy in his duties as Equerry in Waiting.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess de Nemours, accompanied by their youthful family, and attended by a numerous suite, arrived at Dover on Friday last from Ostend. Their Royal Highnesses passed the night at the Royal Ship Hotel, and came on to Clarendon on the following day.

His Excellency the Ambassador of France and the Countess Walewska arrived at the residence of the Embassy in Grosvenor-square on Monday night, from Paris. It will be remembered that his Excellency left London on the 17th ult., on a visit to the Emperor and Empress of the French, at Fontainebleau, where they remained during the last fortnight of their Majesties' *sejour*. His Excellency and the Countess crossed from Calais on Monday; and, after remaining a short time at Birmingham's Royal Ship Hotel, came to London by express.

The usual Christmas festivities at Woburn Abbey will not take place this year, owing to the death of the lamented Lady Caroline Sanford, sister of the Duchess of Bedford.

The Duke of Devonshire has left town, for Chatsworth, until after Christmas.

The Earl of Aberdeen has been suffering from slight indisposition during the past week.

The Earl of Jersey is suffering from indisposition at Middleton Park.

The Right Hon. B. Disraeli and Mrs. Disraeli have arrived at Grosvenor-gate, from Wimpole, where they have been on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Hardwicke.

Lord and Lady John Russell and family are passing the season at Pembroke Lodge, Richmond-park.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.—The Rev. W. F. J. Kaye, to an Hon. Prebend in Lincoln Cathedral. The Rev. H. Scott, to the Prebend of Killamory, in the diocese of Ossory. *Rectories*: The Rev. R. M. Bingley, to Braikeworth, Suffolk; the Rev. W. Bousfield, to Cullington, near Aylesbury; the Rev. C. J. Cartwright, to St. Mary-at-Steps, Exeter; the Rev. C. W. Doherty, to Filham, Lincolnshire; the Rev. J. Flanagan, to Killeavan; the Rev. J. S. Green, to Wilton and Brundall, near Norwich; the Rev. M. Harrison, to Langford Steeple, Wilts; the Rev. W. A. Ormsby, to Smallburgh, Norfolk; the Rev. G. Alston, to Studland, Dorset; the Rev. J. C. Graves, to Stanton Wyville, Leicestershire; the Rev. F. Bachelor, to Calstock, Cornwall; the Rev. A. Matthews, to Gumley, Leicestershire. *Vicarages*: The Rev. A. H. Barker, to Rickmansworth, Herts; the Rev. J. C. Macdonnell, to Laraca, Meath; the Rev. R. Sanders, to Crophorne, Worcestershire; the Rev. J. G. Wynne, to Rathvilly, Leicestershire; the Rev. J. M. Maxfield, to Norwell, with Carlton-on-Trent annexed, near Newark. *Incumbencies*: The Rev. F. G. Bluet, to Ballinacash, Ireland; the Rev. J. F. Moor, jun., to Ampfield, Hampshire; the Rev. C. T. Rust, to St. Michael-at-Thorn, Norwich. *Perpetual Curacy*: The Rev. R. H. Kirby, to Haverthwaite, Lancashire.

TESTIMONIAL TO LORD ADOLPHUS VANE.—Pursuant to an invitation from his late constituents, Lord Adolphus Vane, unseated by a committee of the House of Commons for bribery by his agents, on Tuesday evening met about 350 of his late constituents at a dinner, in the magnificent new hall. Numbers of flags were shown throughout the city during the day; and in the afternoon his Lordship was presented, by W. L. Wharton, Esq., on behalf of the ladies of Durham, and vicinity, with a gold snuff-box and diamond ring, purchased by the subscriptions of the ladies of Durham. Mr. W. L. Wharton, of Durham, presided at dinner, and there were also present Mr. H. G. Liddell, M.P. for North Northumberland; and Mr. Mowbray, M.P. for Durham.

TESTIMONIALS TO MR. GEORGE HAMMOND WHALLEY.—On Tuesday evening last, a public dinner was held in the Corn Exchange, Peterborough, for the purpose of presenting two testimonials to Mr. G. H. Whalley, who has recently been twice elected M.P. for that city, and twice unseated by decisions of a Committee of the House of Commons. The meeting was not a party one, the chairman being Mr. John Whitwell, a well-known Liberal; and the vice-chairmen, Edward Compton, of Water Newton, and Mr. George Speechley, both staunch Conservatives. On the death of Mr. Watson, in the year 1852, Mr. G. C. Lewis was brought forward on the Milton interest, when Mr. Whalley was the independent candidate, and was elected by a majority of 16. A petition was presented against his return, and he was unseated, on proof that he had paid for the wine drunk at the dinner to celebrate his triumph. Mr. Bethell, the Solicitor-General, gave his opinion that this treating, not being corrupt, did not disqualify Mr. Whalley from again becoming member. That gentleman, therefore, again appealed as candidate, his opponent being Mr. Thomas Hankey, jun. The second election took place on the 25th of June, when exactly the same number of voters polled as before, viz., 451; but the majority for Mr. Whalley was increased from 16 to 21. A second petition against his return was presented by Mr. Hayter, and another Committee was appointed, who declared that Mr. Whalley was disqualified from being a candidate at the recent election. They, therefore, unseated him, by striking off 24 votes, and Mr. Hankey now sits as member for Peterborough. The electors, however, feeling themselves much indebted to Mr. Whalley for the energy he had displayed in their cause, determined on presenting him with a testimonial. At the dinner, there were present Mr. Whalley, Mr. John Williams, ex-M.P. for Macclesfield; Mr. John Patrick Murrigh, M.P. for Bridport; Mr. Stammers, Q.C.; and the leading men of both the Conservative and Radical parties. Above 200 gentlemen dined, and the Exchange was crowded with electors and non-electors. The meeting was also graced by the presence of Mrs. Whalley, and other ladies, in the gallery. Speeches were delivered by Mr. Whalley, the Chairman, Vice-chairmen, Mr. Williams, Mr. Murrigh, and other gentlemen. The testimonial consisted of a very handsome centre-piece, which will form at pleasure a six-light candelabra, and also an epergne. Another testimonial was presented by upwards of 300 non-electors: this consisted of a very handsome silver salver. Both centre-piece and salver were manufactured by S. S. and J. W. Benson, silversmiths, Cornhill, from their own designs.

FOREIGN LACE.—The Customs authorities being of opinion that the regulations of an existing order for weighing silk ribbons to the one-hundredth part of a pound should be extended to lace, they have issued orders to the proper officers of the department in London to govern themselves in future in the matter accordingly.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE EARL OF DARTMOUTH.—The remains of this deeply-lamented nobleman were, on Thursday week, placed in a new catacomb adjoining Patshull Church, which is situated in the noble park, Sandwell, the family seat. The chief attendants were the immediate relatives and connections of the late noble Lord; six of the senior officers of the Staffordshire Militia, of which he had so many years had the command; and some of the principal tenants on the Patshull estate.

COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURES.—It is shown by a return just issued that, in the first ten months of the present year, of British manufacture there were 1,118,632 dozen pairs of stockings exported, the value of which was £387,835. In the like period of last year the value was only £182,556.—In ten months to the 5th ult., the value of lace, British and Irish manufacture, exported was £495,834, being a large increase on the former year.—There is a great increase in hardware and cutlery as exported. The value of such articles exported between January and November was £2,991,636.—The value of linen yarn exported was in the first ten months of this year £979,554. Last year in the same period it was £935,061.

NINE WAGGON-LOADS OF SILVER MONIES.—Considerable curiosity was manifested on Saturday morning last by the arrival, at the Waterloo-road terminus of the London and South-Western Railway, of nine waggons filled with silver money, which was packed on carriages on the line, to be conveyed to Southampton, preparatory to being shipped for India and Hong-Kong. The silver weighed thirty tons.

OPIMUM.—The quantity of opium imported in the first ten months of the present year was 146,626 lb.; and the quantity exported was 73,670 lb.

POSTSCRIPT.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

Advices from Odessa to the 17th ult., state that preparations for war were never so energetic as at that moment. It was confidently believed that the Russians would cross the Danube, in spite of the winter. The garrison of Odessa is to be moved to Galatz, and fresh troops from Tauris will occupy Odessa. Between the 29th of September and 7th of October 16,000 Russian troops, 827 horses, two batteries, rations for ten days, and reserve rations for twenty days, were forwarded from Odessa to Asia. After the 14th of October, 8000 men were conveyed from Odessa to Sebastopol. Eleven ships of war were employed in the transport of the troops. Prince Menschikoff superintended the embarkation, and General Kornileff the landing of the men on the Caucasian coast.

The following is an extract from a letter from Bucharest, dated November 26:—

The Turks have now retired from the entire line of the left bank of the Danube, with the exception of Kalafat, in which town and the immediate neighbourhood they still remain unmolested. They also occupy the little island of Mokan, opposite Giurgevo, where they pass their time in firing, under cover of the trees, at any of the Russian soldiers that may come within their reach. At Kalafat the Turks are pushing on their advanced post to Krejova. In all they now muster at this point about 20,000 men. The greatest mystery envelopes the movements of the Russian army, but I have reason to believe that Prince Gortschakoff is silently meditating a movement in the neighbourhood of Kalafat. It is evident that the Prince's tactics are to induce the Turks to assemble in force on some point, and then to fall upon them suddenly. Such was his plan at Oltenitza, but the great slaughter in the Russian ranks must have shown him that he had underrated his adversary. The Russians have not been able to hold the quarantine point at Oltenitza, for the place can at any moment be swept by the guns of Turtukal. The island of Mokan, opposite Giurgevo, is under the Russian guns. The island might be shelled at any time, and the Turks driven off. The Russians, however, are determined to act upon the defensive, and they seem to invite the Turks to come over to the left bank. That part of General Luder's corps which occupied Galatz and Ibraila has marched for Bessarabia. Some suppose that the soldiers are simply going into winter quarters; others say that the whole of Luder's corps is to embark at Keni for the Black Sea.

The Russian forces that entered the Principalities in July last, are estimated at 70,000 effective men. They have since received reinforcements amounting to about 10,000 men. From the total, however, a large deduction must be made on account of the deaths from sickness and wounds. During the four days preceding the 26th, a hard frost prevailed at the seat of war, and the hostile armies already began to feel the rigours of a Wallachian winter.

The engagement between the Servians and the Turks was less important than has generally been believed. The Turks lost about fifty soldiers.

From Constantinople we hear that General Baraguay d'Hilliers is the very reverse of his predecessor. The latter talked in a warlike manner, and acted peaceably; the former speaks mildly enough, but his actions are warlike. He has inspected all the fortifications, and ordered two of his officers of Engineers to make a plan of Constantinople and its defences for the Emperor Napoleon.

The recall of the Baron de Bruck, the Austrian Nuncio at Constantinople, which was a day or two ago confirmed on what seemed to be good authority, is now officially contradicted. The report of the recall of M. de Wildenbruch, the Prussian Envoy at Constantinople, is also contradicted.

We hear from Vienna, that although the British Cabinet is endeavouring to persuade the two great German Powers to join France and England in laying down conditions which Russia and the Porte shall, if necessary, be forced to accept, few well-informed persons believe that the project of the English Government will be crowned with success. The Vienna Cabinet will certainly not object to the renewal of the Conference, but it is by no means likely to give the pledge required by France and England, who, it is foreseen, will insist on conditions which must be highly unacceptable to Russia. It appears almost inconceivable to the Viennese politicians that statesmen can seriously believe an amicable solution of the Oriental difference to be still possible, the Imperial Cabinet having publicly expressed its opinion that the claims of Russia to the Protectorate over the Oriental Church are not entirely unfounded. The representatives of the smaller Powers assert, that should the British Government display any inclination to make concessions to Russia on this point, the harmony which at present exists between France and England will soon be at an end.

The latest advices from Constantinople bring fresh confirmation of the intelligence previously published of the successes of the Turkish arms on the shores of the Black Sea. This news is thus summed up in a telegraphic message:—

The struggle continues in Asia. The Russians, after three sanguinary affairs, have been driven back by superior force from Zohis on Laskow. The fortress of Saffa, and it is said also that of Akistan, have been taken by assault by Selim Pacha. The entrenched camp of Abdi Pacha, at Bayazid, has been attacked without success by the Russians, who also failed on the 17th in a last attack, having for its object the recapture of the fort of St. Nicholas. A small Turkish steamer, the *Needyi Teijarad*, has been captured. The Captain Pacha has given a splendid banquet to the Admirals and officers of the French and English fleets on board his ship the *Mahmoudie*. The officers were presented to the Sultan, and Lord Stratford delivered a speech, in which he promised to Abdul Medjid an effective co-operation against an unjust aggression; but recommending the conclusion of a prompt and honourable peace. The Sultan replied that he desired peace; but on condition that it would not lower the honour of Turkey, and would be compatible with his sovereign rights."

FRANCE.

The inauguration of the statue of Marshal Ney took place on Wednesday. The statue stands on the spot where the Marshal was executed, on the 7th of December, 1815. We shall give an engraving of the statue in our next.

The Paris Bourse was extremely animated on Wednesday, and a considerable rise took place in the price of public securities. The Three per Cents opened at 74f. 55c., rose to 74f. 90c., and closed at 74f. 65c. ex dividend for the end of the month.

ITALY.

A despatch, dated Genoa, announces the opening, on the 6th inst., of the railway from Turin to Genoa. The train of state carriages which conveyed the ministers, senators, &c., performed the distance (165 kilometres) in about four hours.

Advices from Rome of the 26th ult. state that twenty young men have been arrested on suspicion of being members of secret societies and agents of a revolutionary club in London.

A private letter from Rome, dated Nov. 28, says:—

The last three Sundays here have had each its own attractions—the two former in the shape of the beatification of two saints; and the latter (after the ascent of a balloon, which attracted an immense crowd of all classes of Romans), a sermon preached by Cardinal Wiseman, in the church of St. Andrea delle Frati, near the Propaganda. Among other topics, his Eminence congratulated the Roman Catholics on the schisms among the various Dissenting bodies in England, and especially on the difference of opinion in the Church of England on the subject of baptismal regeneration; which, he considered, betokened the speedy dissolution of that establishment; adding, that more converts had been made to the Roman Catholic Church in England during the last ten years than in three hundred years previously. He then enlarged on its immutability, and the delight he experienced on returning to Rome, after an absence of ten years, during which time the whole world had been shaken by revolutions, but without any effect or alteration being produced here (forgetting the presence of a French garrison, without which Pío Nono would probably have remained the guest of the King of Naples; and to whose bayonets the Roman Catholic religion owes its present existence, even in its own capital). He concluded by drawing a parallel between the incredulity of the Greek sceptics in the rites of the Jewish, and that of the Protestants in the ceremonies of the Roman Catholic religion; and said that, however strangers might despise and misunderstand them, the poorest Roman Catholic fully comprehended their meaning and beauty.

It is said here that the question of receiving an English Ambassador has been lately discussed by the authorities, and that the Cardinal is anxious to have it settled in the affirmative.

The unfortunate aeronaut who ascended from the Piazza di Termini was found, two hours after, frozen to death in his balloon, which had descended in the neighbourhood of Mount Soracte, about twenty-five miles distant from this city; he was an old man, and a native of Bologna. Rome is as much infested with beggars as ever, notwithstanding the improvement Cardinal Wiseman professes to have found. The only one I can see is the establishment of an English company for lighting Rome with gas, and which promises to be in operation on Christmas-day.

The King of Naples has dismissed two of the officers of the Board of Health in that city, in order to give satisfaction to the Imperial Government on the subject of the French officers kept in quarantine some time since. It is believed that this arrangement terminates the affair. M. de Maupas has returned to Naples.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS, TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, DEC. 8.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer. Highest Reading.	Thermometer. Lowest Reading.	Mean Temperature of the Day.	Departure of Temperature from Average.	Degree of Humidity.	Direction of Wind.	Rain in Inches.
Dec. 2	29.961	42.1	29.0	35.0	— 6°	93	CALM.	0.09
" 3	29.982	41.0	27.8	34.9	— 6°	95	CALM.	0.00
" 4	29.976	42.0	31.8	37.3	— 4.1	98	CALM.	0.01
" 5	29.982	46.9	37.7	41.5	+ 0.3	98	E.	0.01
" 6	30.011	48.0	38.3	40.5	+ 0.6	93	N.E.	0.00
" 7	30.101	44.8	40.1	41.9	+ 0.9	95	N.	0.00
" 8	30.171	43.5	35.2	38.6	— 2.2	93	S.	0.00

Note.—The sign — denotes below the average, and the sign + above the average.

The reading of the Barometer decreased from 29.99 inches at the beginning of the week to 29.97, by 6 p.m. on the 2nd; increased to 30.10 inches by 6 p.m. on the 3rd; decreased to 29.91 inches by 3 p.m. on the 5th, and increased to 30.25 inches by the end of the week. The mean for the week, at the height of 82 feet above the level of the sea, was 30.007 inches.

The mean Temperature of the week was 38.5°, being 2.7° below the average of the corresponding week during 38 years.

The range of Temperature during the week was 19.1°; being the difference between the highest reading, on the 5th; and the lowest on the 3rd.

The mean daily range of Temperature during the week was 8.9°.

Strong Auroral Light was seen during the evening of the 6th.

Fog was prevalent on the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th.

The weather on the 2nd was fine; and from the 3rd the sky has been for the most part overcast.

Lewisham, 9th December, 1853. JAMES GLAISHER.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—Within the Metropolitan districts the births of 840 boys, and 837 girls, were registered in the week ending Dec. 3. The average for the preceding eight years are 736 and 690 respectively. The number of deaths within the same period was 1414; in the week ending November 5 the number was 1112, in each week since that time the numbers have increased. In the ten weeks corresponding to last week, of the year 1840 to 1852, the average number of deaths was 1200, and this, raised in proportion to increase of population, become 1320, so that the mortality is in excess to the amount of 100 nearly. The number of deaths in the West Districts was 193 (average 172), population 376,427; in the North Districts, 306 (average 219), population 490,396; in the Central Districts, 221 (average 219), population 393,256; in the East Districts 312 (average 267), population 485,522; and in the South Districts, 375 (average 324), population 616,635. So that, with the exception of the Central Districts, the rate of mortality is in considerable excess. The number of deaths at three different periods of life are as follows:—Under 15 years of age, 630 (average 548); between 15 and 60 years, 481 (average 373); and at 60 and above, 306 (average 278): so that the great mortality has been among men and women between the ages of 15 and 60; the next in order are children under fifteen years. The causes of death are as follows:—To zymotic diseases, 301 (their average is 262); of these deaths 222 were children. Small-pox carried off 3; measles, 2; scarlatina, 50; hooping-cough, 59 (exceeding its average by 22); diarrhoea, 31; cholera, 28; and typhus, 56. To dropsy, cancer, &c., 45 deaths (average 60). To tubercular diseases, 222 (average 180): of these, 175 were caused by consumption (whose average is 136). To those of the brain, &c., 131 (their average is 132). To those of the heart, 59 (their average is 47). To those of the lungs and the other organs of respiration, 379 (their average is 279): of these, bronchitis was fatal in 178 cases (its average is 101), and pneumonia in 143 cases (its average is 127). To diseases of the stomach, &c., 71 deaths (their average is 64). To premature birth, 42; to age, 70; to burns and scalds, 2; to hanging, 5; and to fracture, 4. From the above it will be seen that, from consumption, there died 175 individuals; from bronchitis, 178; from inflammation of the lungs, 143. Fatal cases of these diseases have become, therefore, more numerous; and the two former exhibit a mortality considerably above their average.

THE LONDON FARMERS' CLUB.—This Association held its last discussion meeting for the year 1853, on Tuesday; when Mr. J. H. Ramsay, the well-known Northumbrian agriculturist, read a paper, "On the advantages of a Central Farmers' Club," which should be a means of communication and action between the various local agricultural societies of the Kingdom. By quotation from a series of very carefully-prepared statistical tables, he showed that increased population, and consumption of food, demanded the utmost exertions of the farming community, and argued that it was only by increased means of communication and discussion, that farmers could keep up the position and influence they desired to enjoy. After an animated discussion, in which deputations from the South Hampshire, the Manchester, and the Arundel Farmers' Clubs, took part, it was resolved that it was desirable that the London Club should take measures for placing itself in correspondence with the local clubs of the county, and for acting as a central Farmers' Club.

CHRISTMAS-DAY.—The Lord Mayor, upon taking his seat at the Mansion-house, on Wednesday, said: "I wish to state, in order that public notice may be taken of the fact, that I have received several communications relative to making Monday the 26th instant a general holiday, on the ground of Christmas-day falling upon a Sunday. I believe that the day will be generally observed as a holiday by commercial firms in the City; but I fear the Bank of England, and the other monetary establishments may find it impossible to cease entirely from business. I, therefore, feel a difficulty in interfering further in the matter, beyond the expression of my opinion, that the Monday will be generally observed as a holiday in the City, and from information which I have received from the principal provincial towns, I feel persuaded that the day will be kept from general business throughout the country."

DEPUTATIONS.—A deputation of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers had an interview with Viscount Palmerston on Wednesday, at the Home-office; and one from the parish of Lambeth, upon the subject of the sewage, consisting of Mr. W. Williams, M.P., Mr. A. Wilkinson, M.P.; Rev. Charlton Lane, Captain Wood, Churchwarden Taylor, Churchwarden Stratton, Mr. Rhodes, and Mr. R. H. Manning, had also an interview with the noble Lord on the same day.—A deputation on the subject of the juxtaposition of the scientific societies of the metropolis had an interview with the Earl of Aberdeen on Wednesday, at his official residence, in Downing-street.—Lord Palmerston, during the same day, received a deputation respecting the interments in Hackney churchyard; and another, consisting of the Board of Guardians of the parish of Camberwell, Surrey, on the subject of sewers and sanitary measures.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—The ordinary meeting of the Society of Arts was held on Wednesday evening, at the Society's house, Adelphi; Mr. Harry Chester in the chair; when Mr. R. M. Glover, Lecturer on Chemistry at the Royal Free Hospital, read a paper on the "New Safety Lamp," invented by himself, in junction with Mr. John Cail, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. At the conclusion of the paper a short discussion ensued; and the chairman announced that at the next meeting of the society a paper would be read by Mr. Mechi, on his experimental farming at Tipree, in Essex.

EARLY-CLOSING MOVEMENT.—On Wednesday evening a meeting of the principals in the grocery business was held at Lawson's rooms, Gower-street, for the purpose of effecting an earlier closing of the shops in their own particular trade. It was resolved that, for the future, the shops should be closed for the six winter months at eight o'clock, and at nine o'clock for the six summer months, Saturdays excepted—then at eleven o'clock. The meeting was mainly composed of the chief tradesmen of the district.

THE DANGERS OF THE PAYMENT.—The neglect of cleansing the public footpaths in the metropolis has become such a growing evil, that at the present time they are not only disgraceful, but highly dangerous to pedestrians. A clause of the new police regulations bears directly on the subject, but it has not been carried out. Paragraph 6 of the 60th clause is as follows:—"Every occupier of a house of tenement in any town within the said (Metropolitan Police) district, who shall not keep sufficiently swept and cleansed all footways and water-courses adjoining the premises occupied by him, shall be liable to a penalty of not more than 40s. for every such offence."

THE FARRINGTON-STREET EXTENSION.—A hoarding has been erected around a block of houses in West-street, Saffron-hill, preparatory to their being pulled down for the proposed extension of Farrington-street. There are about twelve houses in the block; they are situated at the extreme north end of Victoria-street, on the west side, and are in close approximation to those rendezvous of all descriptions of bad characters, Field-lane and Saffron-hill.

STREET REPAIRS.—St. Paul's Churchyard is again closed, and the whole of the enormous traffic of the line of road to and from the City and West-end of the town is thrown upon Newgate-street. The traffic of the Strand and Fleet-street line, on proceeding westward, is carried on by the narrow thoroughfare on the north side of the church, until the main road on the other side of the Cathedral is repaired.

THE HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS.—The present lease of the Hanover square Rooms is drawing to a close, and its present proprietors have no intention of keeping up a close, and put purpose dividing the property, thereby making it more profitable. On the other hand, Burlington-house, in Piccadilly, is reported to be the spot fixed on by Sir Charles Fox for the new music-rooms which he has announced his resolution of building. We should be glad among these speculations to hear of any chance of a theatre being built on a moderate scale, and placed at the disposal of an English Opera company.—*Athenaeum*.

MUSICAL EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.—On Thursday last, a meeting was held at the London Tavern—the Hon. Villiers Townsend in the chair—at which it was resolved to establish a Society for Teaching Music to the Blind, on the plan of the Institut des Jeunes Aveugles, at Paris, whereby they might gain their own livelihood.

SCHOOL FOR THE INDIGENT BLIND.—On Thursday the annual meeting of this charity was held at the London Coffee-house—the Rev. John Evans in the chair—when it was stated that her Majesty had sent 300 guineas, to give the Prince of Wales the right of always having one pupil in the institution. The number of pupils now in the institution are 77 males and 69 females. The total receipts for the past year were £2245, and the balance in hand at the close of the year £289. The funded property of the society amounts to about £83,000.

BUENOS AYRES BONDS.—On Thursday a meeting of bondholders was held at the London Tavern—J. D. Powles, Esq., in the chair—at which a determination of the committee of Spanish American bondholders to send out a special commissioner to Buenos Ayres to negotiate for an arrangement with regard to the claims of the bondholders, was approved. From the present aspect of affairs in Buenos Ayres, the committee have no doubt of a favourable result.

THE IRISH CHURCH MISSIONS SOCIETY.—On Tuesday last, a deputation from the committee of the Society for Irish Church Missions to the Roman Catholics waited, by appointment, upon the Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, for the purpose of presenting to his Lordship the memorial of the president, vice-president, and committee of the society, praying his Lordship to institute an inquiry into the circumstances which have lately taken place in Dublin, in reference to the decision of Mr. Hugh O'Callaghan, the police magistrate, in the case of William Smith. The memorial was signed by the Duke of Manchester, the president, and forty-five of the vice-presidents and members of committee. Lord Palmerston promised to inquire into the particulars of the memorial.

PASSES OF THE BALKAN.—On Monday next, at the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, the second portion of the paper will be read, "Journey into the Balkan, or Mount Hæmus; with a description of the Diebitsch, through this celebrated mountain-range, and a comparison of the routes pursued by Darius, Hytastes, Alexander the Great, and Marshal Diebitsch," by Lieut.-General A. Jochmus; communicated by Sir Roderick I. Murchison.

MARYLEBONE FREE LIBRARY.—The first free library established in the metropolis will, we are informed, be opened early in January, 1854, at Gloucester-place, New-road.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE.—The morning performance of the equestrian company, on Wednesday, was most numerous and fashionably attended. The success of the management has been so decided, and the results so prosperous to the directors, Messrs. Hernandez and Eaton Stone, that they have determined on devoting the proceeds of their last performance in London (on the 17th inst.), as a testimonial of their esteem towards the lessee, Mr. E. T. Smith.

INCOME-TAX AND WAGES.—The following letter is in answer to a question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as to how far the new act is applicable to those whose incomes are derived from weekly wages:—"Downing-street, Dec. 5, 1853.—Sir, I am directed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, written on behalf of yourself and the other compositors employed in connection with the *Globe* newspaper, on the subject of the extension of the Income-tax to incomes amounting to £100 per annum derived from the weekly wages of labour. I am instructed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to inform you that the Income-tax Act applies to all annual income, whether it be made up of weekly payments or not; but the wages of labour are returnable under Schedule D, and no person is liable to the tax unless he shall have actually received £100 per annum, and upwards, on an average of three years. The principal point wherein you appear to think your case distinguishable from others is, that your employment is not certainly continuous for a year. Upon this it may be observed that, if there has been any actual intermission of employment, so as to reduce in any particular instance a man's receipts below £100 per annum upon an average of three years, he is in that case undoubtedly entitled to claim exemption. I have the honour to be, sir, your faithful servant, FRANCIS LAWLEY.—Mr. Thomas Eve."

MARLBOROUGH-STREET.—THE POLICE.—John McCarthy, a lad about sixteen years of age, was charged with having picked the pocket of Mr. Albany William Fonblanque, in Coventry-street. He was sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment. Mr. Fonblanque, at the close of the proceedings, said he wished to be allowed to observe that he had been placed in a difficulty which he thought ought not to have occurred to him in such a public thoroughfare as Coventry-street. He was for at least five minutes with the prisoner in his custody, before he could meet with a constable, during which time he was subjected to the annoyance of a mob of persons. He had nearly got as far as the station-house before he met with a constable to take charge of the prisoner. Now, he was not one of those who thought that a policeman should always be found at hand in every emergency, but he certainly did think that police assistance, in open day at least, should be more readily attainable than he had found it.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT FROM A TRIFLING CAUSE.—On Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Bellchambers, an undertaker, of Union-street, Lambeth-walk, proceeded to make inquiries respecting a funeral in the parish. Whilst conversing with a neighbour, he stepped off the kerb, and broke his thigh in two places. The unfortunate sufferer was removed to St. Bartholomew's Hospital; but, owing to his age (upwards of sixty), little hopes are entertained of his recovery.

FATAL ACCIDENT IN QUEEN-STREET, CHEAPSIDE.—Thomas Blackwell, aged forty-five, in the employ of Messrs. Murray and Co., wholesale stationers, was raising a bundle of paper by a pulley to an upper story, on Monday last, when the rope slipped from his hand, and the bundle, falling upon his head, killed him upon the spot.

THE NAWAB OF SURAT.—Among the passengers by the *Ripon*, which arrived at Southampton on Monday, were several belonging to the suite of the Nawab of Surat. The Nawab came from Bombay to Suez in the East India Company's steamer, *Achbar*, and proceeded from Alexandria to Trieste in the Austrian packet, accompanied by several of his friends and servants. The rest of his suite came home in the *Ripon*. Surat was the first place at which the Mogul Emperors allowed the English to establish a factory in India. The principal persons in Surat were fire worshippers. The Nawab's servants were dressed in the picturesque costume of their country; one of them spoke English fluently and grammatically. They cooked for themselves on board the *Ripon*. The only thing they would eat which was touched by Christians was bread. The Nawab's object in visiting England is to prosecute some claim which he has on the British Government.

THE WINE DUTIES.—Mr. Oliveira, M.P., writes from Bordeaux:—"Since my arrival in this city I have received the greatest support and assurance of the sympathy felt in our efforts to obtain a reduction of the wine duties. The apprehension felt by some persons as to a deficiency of supply is quite futile. The present stock is very large, quite enough to meet any demand for the next three years. I am happy to say that, so far from the French desiring a reduction of duty upon their wines without any corresponding concessions, I am informed that recent efforts have been made, and serious discussions taken place upon the question of admitting into the ports of France, duty free, all materials used in the construction of ships, as well as to grant to foreign-built vessels the same privileges as to national ones. Inquiries are also on foot with reference to the feasibility of a reduction in the duty upon cotton goods."

THE WELLINGTON DOMAINS IN PORTUGAL.—The Duke and Duchess of Wellington (his Grace, as one of the great officers of State, having obtained a long *congé* from her Majesty) have gone to Lisbon, where the noble and gallant Duke had several interviews with the Portuguese Ministers, relative to taking possession of the valuable domains bestowed by that nation on his late illustrious father, as well as assuming the titles attached to them. He has left that capital with the Duchess on a tour through the provinces, the scene of the late Duke's achievements; after which their Graces proceed to Madrid for a similar purpose, and then return to England, via Paris.

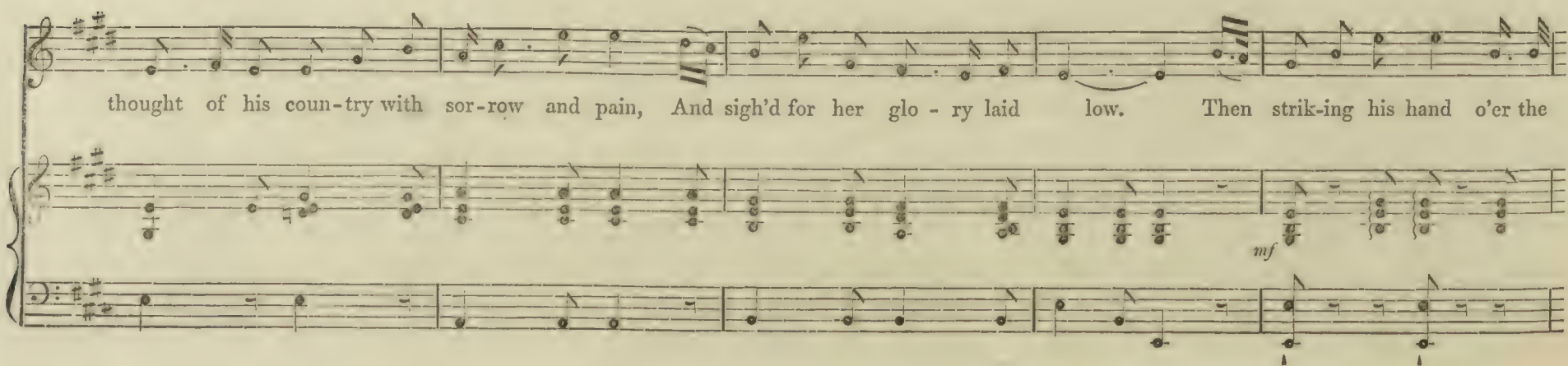
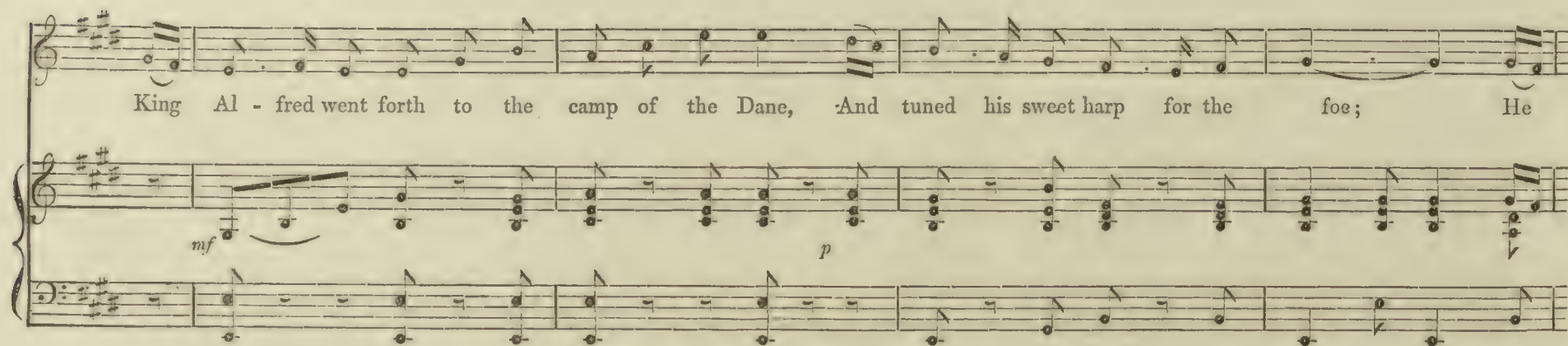
GAROTTE ROBBERIES AT MANCHESTER.—On Monday night Mr. Councillor Ainsworth, of Manchester, was robbed of a purse containing two half-sovereigns, in the Hyde-road, near Ardwick-green, by two men, who nearly deprived him of sense by clapping him round the neck.—An attempt on Saturday evening last, on Mr. Samuel Lees, a cotton-cotton-spinner, was successfully resisted. Mr. Lees was walking in Upper Brook-street, when a man tripped behind with a light step and clasped him round the neck. He threw off the man, however, though he nearly dropped on his knees before he could get his head free. He struck out with his walking-stick, hitting the man on the left temple, and knocked him down just as several other men rushed to the spot, but who were deterred by threats from renewing the attack. The man who had made the attack followed Mr. Lees, bleeding copiously, and made two more springs at him, but was felled each time by blows of the walking-stick. There was no policeman near, and the man escaped.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN WARNER.—This gentleman (a Master in the R.N.) so well known for his invention of what was popularly termed the "long range," died very suddenly this week. It appears that recently Captain Warner was very sanguine of coming to some arrangement with the Turkish Government for the use of his invention; and whether the excitement arising from this expectation had any connection with his sudden death, is matter for conjecture. We regret to hear that there is a widow and seven children, as far as is known, without any provision. It is not yet ascertained whether the "secret" of the invention is left in deceased's papers; but he usually declared that it would be.



Rather slow, and with much expression.

Air, "MY LODGING IS ON THE COLD GROUND."



an - swer - ing chords, Of love and its plea - sures he sung, Till the ga - ther - ing crowd beat ap -

p *cres.*

plause with their swords, And their tents with the me - lo - dy rung.

f *p* *f*

"Come, sing us a song of the full flow - ing bowl!" Ex - claim'd the proud foe, as he play'd;— The

mf *p*

min - strel, tho' sad - ness lay deep on his soul, Look'd round with a smile and o - bey'd: "Who drinks the deep draught shall be

mf

strong in the fight; Who drains to the dregs is a king!" A - gain they ap - plaud - ed: "We'll

cres.

pledge you to-night; 'Tis thus that a min - strel should sing."

f *ff*

With animation.

Then chang - ing his theme, came the tune like a wave: "When haugh - ty in - va - ders de - fy, His

mf *rf*

fame shall be first on the roll of the brave, Who meets them, to con - quer or die; His name shall as - cend in the

rf *cres.* *f* *p*

prayers of the free,"— "Be - ware!" said the foe, "we are strong; The min - strel is safe, but a -

mf *f* *p*

no - ther than he Might have paid with his life for his song!"

f *ff*

"KING ALFRED."

BY CHARLES MACKAY.

KING ALFRED went forth to the camp of the Dane,
And tuned his sweet harp for the foe;
He thought of his country with sorrow and pain,
And sigh'd for her glory laid low.
Then striking his hand o'er the answering chords,
Of love and his pleasures he sung,
Till the gathering crowd beat applause with their swords,
And their tents with the melody rung.

"Come, sing us a song of the full flowing bowl!"
Exclaim'd the proud foe, as he play'd;—
The minstrel, tho' sadness lay deep on his soul,
Look'd round with a smile and obey'd:
"Who drinks the deep draught shall be strong in the fight;
Who drains to the dregs is a king!"
Again they applauded: "We'll pledge you to-night;
'Tis thus that a minstrel should sing."

Then changing his theme, came the tune like a wave:
"When haughty invaders defy,
His name shall be first on the roll of the brave,
Who meets them, to conquer or die;
His name shall ascend in the prayers of the free,"
"Beware!" said the foe, "we are strong;
The minstrel is safe, but another than he
Might have paid with his life for his song!"

SMITHFIELD CLUB DINNER.

In page 488, of this day's Number, we have given an account of the opening of the Cattle Show, the list of the prizes, &c. The annual dinner was held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday; the Duke of Richmond, K.G., presiding; supported by Lord Portman, Lord Berners, Sir John Shelley, M.P., Mr. Pusey, Admiral Saumarez, and about eighty other friends and supporters of the club. The usual loyal toasts having been most warmly responded to, the Chairman said he believed it was important to keep up the Smithfield Cattle Show for the purpose of promoting the production of fine cattle, sheep, and pigs—not such monster animals as that from Buckinghamshire, but animals which would give to the people wholesome and cheap food. He was authorised by the judges to say, that there never was a better show, and that the sheep and pigs exhibited were most creditable to the country. As regarded the position of the club, he begged leave to tell them, on the authority of their Chancellor of the Exchequer, that they had a surplus in hand, after the payment of all demands, to carry on their operations in future years. The noble Duke concluded by proposing "Prosperity to the Smithfield Cattle Club" (Cheers).

The various prizes having been distributed, the Chairman proposed the "Health of Mr. Stratton, the winner of the gold medal." Mr. Stratton returned thanks.

Lord Portman, in reply to the toast of "The Trustees," observed that the objects of the Smithfield Club were to support not so much the beginning as the end of farming, by bringing the best of food to market at the cheapest rate—to pay at the same time the grazier and the butcher.

Lord Berners, in reply to the toast of "The Vice-presidents," alluded to the advantages which the Royal Agricultural Society of England were to the graziers and breeders, and related a case of his own, where he was continually losing valuable animals by disease, until, under a rule of the society, he made application for a professor from the Royal Veterinary College, which they supplied gratuitously, and, under the advice of Professor Symonds, thirty-nine valuable beasts were saved. It should be known to all that, upon application to the Royal Agricultural Society, they gave this service gratuitously (Cheers).

The Chairman proposed "The Royal Agricultural Society of England, coupled with the health of Mr. Philip Pusey, its president."

Mr. Pusey, in responding, said he believed that that society now represented something like 6000 of the tenant farmers of England, and that it had conferred, and was conferring, a national benefit.

The health of the judges, the steward, Mr. Brandreth Gibbs (the secretary), and other toasts, having been disposed of, the company separated.

MEMORIAL FONT.—The beautiful Maltese stone font, sent by Mr. Millar, of Edinburgh, to the late Dublin Exhibition, has been purchased by Mrs. Moore, Moore-hill, Tallow, county of Waterford; and presented by her to Moore-hill Church, in memory, and in grateful acknowledgment, of her providential deliverance from the wreck of their yacht the *Owen Glendower*, 24th September, 1851.

ILLEGAL LOTTERIES.—The magistrates of Bristol were engaged last Tuesday in hearing a prosecution, by order of the Secretary of State, against Mr. H. H. King, a stationer, carrying on a large business in that city, for having held what was termed a "distribution on the plan of the Fine Arts' distribution." The case excited a very large amount of interest, from the fact that the prosecution was understood to have been instituted at the instigation of the Trades Protection Association. After a lengthened argument, Mr. Herapath (one of the magistrates) gave judgment in favour of Mr. King. He said the matter was one of immense public importance; as, should the judgment of the magistrates be tenable, persons would be opening lottery-offices all over the kingdom. In conclusion, he observed, "we are quite satisfied that the offence has been committed, but think that we have not the power to deal with it summarily." Mr. Reynolds (Solicitor to the Treasury) expressed his conviction that, should the present decision be confirmed upon review, the Government would feel it their duty to obtain a new Act of Parliament. The magistrates were of opinion that such lotteries were prejudicial to public morals, and that they ought to be put an end to.

THE NORTH-WEST PASSAGE.—The great interest which attaches to the North-West Passage has induced the proprietors of the Gallery of Illustration to make arrangements for painting a series of dioramic pictures from Captain Inglefield's very able sketches of the adventures of the Arctic travellers and their ships; the pictures to be painted by Messrs. Grieve and Telbin, and to be added to the attractions of the Gallery in Regent-street.

WRECK OF THE "MERIDIAN."—Although the gallant services of Captain Ludlow do not, we have been given to understand, come within the sphere of the operations of the Royal National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck—which is limited to the saving of life from wrecks on the coasts of the United Kingdom—we trust the society will make an exception in favour of his noble conduct, and vote to Captain Ludlow its gold medal; for no one, amongst the hundreds of brave men the Society has thus honoured with its medal, has more perseveringly and richly deserved it.

ACCIDENT AT THE PORTLAND BREAKWATER.—We have received from a Correspondent the following account, in correction of the statement which has been published:—The engine, with four iron waggons, proceeded to the end of the breakwater staging, and was then shunted back a short distance to the spot assigned for the discharge of the stone. The whole train now being in a state of quiescence, the workmen were about to "tip" the waggons, when suddenly the pile on which the railroad was supported broke into four pieces, and the whole descended into the water with the train—the engine driver (George Evans) and his stoker jumping from the locomotive as it reached the water, but the two breakersmen disappeared below the surface. Several boats were immediately in attendance, and succeeded in picking up the engine-driver, stoker, and one or two other men, who had been on the staging at the time of its descent. In the afternoon divers went down, but no traces of the men were visible. Next day the engine and waggons were brought up in a very damaged condition.

WILLS.—Probate of the will of the Right Hon. John Earl Brownlow has been granted to his brothers, the Hon. and Rev. Richard Cust, and the Hon. Peregrine Francis Cust, and to his son, the Hon. Charles Henry Cust (heretofore Egerton), also an executor; and to the latter is bequeathed the residue of his real and personal estate, the personality sworn under £90,000. There are many liberal annuities to his Lordship's family, and to his steward, and others of his household and domestics, all free of legacy duty. His Lordship has directed the memorial, presented to him by the magistrates and deputy-lieutenants of the county of Lincoln, on his retirement from the Lord-Lieutenancy of that county, being an address numerously signed, and richly ornamented and bound, contained in a coffer of ebony and wrought silver, should be held and enjoyed as heir-looms: his uniform, sword, and accoutrements, and the collar and order of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic orders he leaves to his son Henry. The will of General Alexander Mackenzie, G.C.H., has just been proved, and the personality sworn under £80,000. He has left to the charitable institutions at Bath, where he was residing, and at which city his death occurred, on the 17th October last, and to institutions in Scotland and London, as follows:—To the Church Pastoral Aid Society, £1000; Consumption Hospital, £1000; Scottish Hospital, £500; Northern Infirmary, Inverness, £500; Dispensary, at ditto, £100; United Hospital, at Bath, £300; Western ditto, £100; Bath District National Benevolent Institution, £200; Bath Society for the Relief of the Sick Poor, £200; and to the poor of Dingwall and of Inverness, £100 to each of the places, all free of legacy duty. After bequeathing a few annuities, and a legacy of 100 guineas to James Watson, Esq., M.D., of Bath, to purchase a snuff-box in remembrance of him, he has left the residue of his property to his nephews, the acting executors, Sir Roderick Impey Marchison, and Kenneth Murchison, Esq., equally between them.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

WOLVERHAMPTON STEEPLE-CHASES.—TUESDAY.

Handicap Sweepstakes.—Oscar, 1. Topsy, 2.
Selling Steeple-chase.—Tulip, 1. Sir Harry, 2.
Free Handicap Hurdle Race.—Half-and-Half, 1. Drayton, 2.

LATEST BETTING AT TATTERSALL'S ON THURSDAY.

LIVERPOOL STEEPLE-CHASE.—20 to 1 agst Peter Simple (t.)

9 to 1 agst King Tom (t.)	40 to 1 agst Knight of St.	1000 to 15 agst Middlesex
30 to 1 Bolardo (t.)	George (t.)	2000 to 20 Alembic (t.)
40 to 1 Meteora (t.)	2000 to 35 Hesse Cassel (t.)	1000 to 10 Reel Colt (t.)

A DRAMATIC VETERAN.—An extraordinary performance is to be given at the Théâtre Français, in Paris, about the 15th instant, for the benefit of Mlle. Georges, formerly one of the great ornaments of the French legitimate drama. She made her first appearance at the Théâtre Français in 1803, and will take her farewell after an interval of half a century. The play will be Corneille's "Rodogune," which has not been given in Paris for twenty-five years.

THE HARD WOOD TRADES.—During the present year, prices of all kinds of furniture and shipbuilding woods have risen to an unprecedented extent. Mahogany has risen nearly cent per cent on the minimum prices, and in consequence the consumption of that wood has entirely ceased in shipbuilding, and the consumption for other purposes is much reduced. In consequence of a combination between the importers to compel the Admiralty to pay these prices, the last contract which was issued by them, for about 5000 loads, was entirely rejected, and other wood will be used in its place. The production on the other side, in consequence of the great rise in prices, and in order to provide for this contract, has been immense, and the importation for the year 1854 will probably be greater than ever was known, whereas the greater part of consumption is entirely withdrawn, so that in all probability the fall in prices will be equal to the rise.

HORRIBLE MURDER OF A SLAVE.—A fiend in human shape, named Thomas Motley, has been convicted at Waterborough, S.C., for the murder of a runaway slave. It was proved on the trial that he first shot the slave, wounding him severely, and then whipped him; after which he put him in a vice, and subjected him to the most excruciating torture. He then set him loose, started bloodhounds after him, which ran him down, mangled him horribly, and finally cut him up and fed the dogs with his flesh.—*New York Tribune.*

EFFECTIVE FORCE OF THE BRITISH NAVY.—From a careful calculation of the force of the Royal navy at the present time, it is found that there are 217 ships in actual commission. If fully manned, according to the established scale of complements, the aggregate complements of these 217 ships would be above 44,000, of which number 30,300 may be called seamen, 7200 marines, and 6500 boys. But from the great scarcity of seamen, and the desertions that have taken place, probably the effective force of the navy does not amount to above 41,000 of all classes.

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF A YOUNG LADY.—The family of M. L., residing at Bayswater, are in the greatest anxiety on account of their daughter, who was sent on Friday morning, Nov. 18, to call upon an invalid lady, whose house, they find, upon inquiry, she did not reach, and from the time she left her parents' home to the present they have not obtained the least clue to her whereabouts. She was twenty-two years of age, and went out in her morning dress, and altogether lightly clad for the time of year.

A GUARD KILLED.—During the fog on Tuesday last, an accident took place on the (Scottish) South-Western line, a mineral train having come in contact with a luggage train; and it was found that one of the guards was killed, by being squeezed between the buffers of some of the waggons.

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

There has been rather an extensive business transacted in the Consol Market, this week. The purchases of stock on behalf of those who wish to receive the dividend, have been large; and, altogether, matters have assumed a favourable appearance. The news from the East is regarded as more satisfactory; although, up to the present time, there is no positive prospect of an amicable arrangement between Russia and Turkey. The Account has passed off remarkably well; but the actual balances paid have not been large.

We have had rather extensive arrivals of bullion: viz., 2,042,139 dollars from Mexico, &c.—66,000 being on account of the Mexican dividends; £220,000 from New York; and about £70,000 in silver from Holland. The latter has evidently been forwarded to purchase gold. The shipments of silver to the East, owing to the rapid fall in its value in China, have almost wholly ceased; and it is scarcely probable, seeing the immense amount of treasure in the hands of the East India Company, in its various Dependencies—estimated at £16,000,000 sterling, in rupees—that they will be resumed on anything like an extensive scale. In the value of that metal, very little change has taken place in it, but the demand has ruled heavy.

The Continental Exchanges have undergone a favourable change, as regards this country—gold being 0.40 per cent dearer in London than at Hamburg, and 0.97 per cent dearer in London than in Paris. Should these prices continue, we may look forward to a return of a portion of the late heavy exports. There has been a moderate demand for money, and which has been fairly met by the private bankers. We may observe, however, that none but first-class bills have been discounted at 5 per cent. Doubtful ones have ranged at from 6 to 7 per cent.

Consols were very firm on Monday. The Three per Cents marked 94½ to 95½; the Three per Cents Reduced, 94½; and the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 95½ to 96½. Bank Stock was 219 to 218; India Stock, 261; Long Annuities, 54. India Bonds, par; Exchequer Bills, 3s. to 6s. prem. South Sea Stock was done at 11s. There was considerable activity in the market on Tuesday, and a rapid advance took place in prices. The Three per Cents, both for Money and the Account, were done as high as 96½, closing at 96½. The New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents were 97½. A good business was transacted on Wednesday, and the highest figure for Consols was 96½, rather buyers. Exchequer Bills were 4s. to 7s. prem.

On Thursday Consols were steady, without any material change in the quotations. The Three per Cents, ex div. for the opening, were 94½ to 95; the Three per Cents Reduced, 94½; and the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 97. Exchequer Bills were 5s. to 8s. prem.

The amount of bills drawn by the East India Company upon their respective Presidencies, from the 24th ult. to the 7th inst., was £40,355 6s. 5d.

The accounts from the manufacturing districts are of a more favourable character than those received for some time past. Most of the operatives are returning to their employment, though on short time.

The Foreign House has ruled rather active, on higher terms. Brazilian Bonds have been 98½; Chilean Six per Cents, 102; Ecuador, 5½; Grenada, Deferred, 8; Mexican Three per Cents, 25½; Peruvian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 69½; Portuguese Four per Cents, 42; Russian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 99; Sardinian Five per Cents, 90½; Spanish Three per Cents, 46½; Ditto New, Deferred, 22½; Venezuela, 32; Belgian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 96½; and Dutch Four per Cents, 95½.

On the whole, the market for Miscellaneous Shares has ruled steady, and prices have been well supported. British North American Bank Shares have sold at 64½; Chartered Bank of Asia, 4½; English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered, 9; London Chartered Bank of Australia, 15½; London Joint-Stock, 26½; Union of Australia, 74½ to 75; Australian Agricultural Shares have been 46 to 48½; British American Land, 60; Crystal Palace, 74; Ditto, New, 44; General Screw Steam Company, 12½; Netherlands Land, 3; North British Australasian, 14; Peel River Land and Mineral, 64; Scottish Australian Investment, 24; South Australian Land, 36; Van Diemen's Land, 16; Hungerford Bridge Shares have marked 12; Waterloo, 5½; Vauxhall, 22; Albion Insurance, 95; County, 125; Globe, 143; Imperial Fire, 375; Pelican, 45; Phoenix, 186; Royal Exchange, 240; Sun, 65; Victoria Docks, 74; African Steam Ship, 94½; British American Land, 66; Canada Six per Cent Bonds, 115; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 72½.

The market for Railway Shares has been firm. In most instances, prices have had an upward tendency. The following are the official closing prices on Thursday:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Aberdeen, 21½; Ambergate, Nottingham, and Boston Junction, 5½; Caledonian, 56½; Dublin and Belfast Junction, 46; East Anglian, 5½; Eastern Counties, 12½; Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, 22½; Great Northern, 85½; Ditto, A. Stock, 60½; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 103½; Great Western, 84; Lancaster and Carlisle (Thirds), 12 prem.; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 68; Ditto, Fifths, 11; London and Blackwall, 8½; London, Tilbury, and Southend, 9½; London and Brighton, 99½; London and North-Western, 102½; Ditto, £10 Share, 1½; London and South-Western, 78; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 24; Midland, 64; Newry and Enniskillen, 24; North British, 83½; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 39½; Shropshire Union, 24; South Wells, 33½; Waterford and Kilkenny, 65; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 65½; Ditto Extension, 11½; York and North Midland, 49½.

LINES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS.—Manchester, Buxton, and Matlock, 2½; Midland Bradford, 99½; Northern and Eastern, Six per Cent, 68; Wear Valley, 31½; Wilts and Somerset, 99.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—Chester and Holyhead, 18; Eastern Counties Extension, No. 2, 14 prem.; Ditto, Six per Cent Stock, 14; Great Northern, Five per Cent, 121; Great Southern and Western (Ireland),

Eights, 8½; Great Western, Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 102; Ditto, Irredeemable, 99; London and Brighton, Six per Cent, 143; Londonderry and Enniskillen, 12½; Consolidated Bristol and Birmingham, Six per Cent Stock, 140½; North British, 108; South-Eastern, 24.

FOREIGN.—Grand Trunk of Canada, 7½; Luxembourg, 10½; Namur and Liege (with interest), 8½; Ditto, ex int., 6½; Paris and Lyons, 26½; South-Eastern of France, 2½. Mining Shares have been flat. On Thursday, Agua Fria were 1½; Australian, 2½; Imperial Brazilian, 6; St. John del Rey, 38; Cobre Copper, 46½; Copiapo, 12½; and United Mexican, 4½ to 5.

THE MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE, Dec. 5.—The show of English wheat in to-day's market was very limited; yet the demand for all kinds ruled heavy, at a decline in the quotations of from 1s. to 2s. per quarter. Foreign wheats were dull, and 2s. per quarter lower. Flour was heavy, at 5s. per sack less money; the top price of English being 70s. Barley was in good supply, and heavy request, at 1s. to 2s. per quarter less money. Oats and malt gave way 1s.; new beans, 2s. to 3s.; peas, 1s. to 2s. per quarter, with a very dull inquiry.

Dec. 7.—To-day's market was very scantily attended by buyers, and only a limited business was doing in all articles of grain, at Monday's decline in the quotations. English—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 6s. to 7s.; ditto, white, 5s. to 7s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, 4s. to 7s.; ditto, white, 4s. to 5s.; rye, 3s. to 4s.; grinding barley, 2s. to 3s.; distilling ditto, 3s. to 4s.; malted ditto, 3s. to 4s.; Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 6s. to 6s.; brown ditto, 5s. to 6s.; Kingston and Ware, 6s. to 6s.; Chevalier, 6s. to 6s. Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 2s. to 2s. 7s.; potato ditto, 2s. to 3s.; Youghal and Cork, black, 2s. to 2s. 6s.; ditto, white, 2s. to 2s. 6s.; tick beans, new, 4s. to 4s. 6s.; ditto, old, 4s. to 4s. 6s.; grey peas, 3s. to 4s.; maple, 4s. to 4s. 6s.; white, 5s. to 6s.; bolars, 6s. to 6s. 6s. per quarter. Town-made flour, 5s. to 7s.; Suffolk, 5s. to 5s. 6s.; Stockton and Yorkshire, 4s. to 5s. 6s. per 280lbs. Foreign: French flour, —s. to —s. per sack; American, 3s. to 4s. per barrel.

Seeds.—For most kinds of seeds the demand is inactive, at last week's prices. Cakes are quite as dear as last week.

Lined.—English, sowing, 5s. to 6s.; Baltic crushing, 4s. to 5s.; Mediterranean and Odessa, 5s. to 5s. 6s.; hempseed, 3s. to 3s. 6s. per quarter; Coriander, 10s. to 15s. per cwt.; Brown mustard-seed, 10s. to 13s.; white ditto, 15s. to 18s.; and tares, 7s. 6d. to 8s. per bushel. English rapeseed, £30 to £34 per last of ten quarters. Lined cakes, English, £9 0s. to £10 10s.; ditto, foreign, £9 5s. to £11 10s. per ton. Rapeseed cakes, £5 0s. to £5 10s. per ton. Canary, 6s. to 7s. per quarter. Clover-seeds nominal.

Wheat.—The prices of wheat in the metropolis are from 10½d. to 11d.; of household ditto from 10d. to 11d. loaf.

Tea.—The demand for all kinds of tea continues steady, at full prices. Common sound congou, has sold at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 3½d. per lb. The total clearances to the 3rd instant were 40,492 1½ lb., against 39,688,166 ditto in 1852.

Sugar.—Very moderate supplies of raw sugar have been on offer this week, yet they have proved quite equal to the wants of the trade. In prices very little change has taken place. Fine yellow Barbadoes, 2s. to 2s. 6d.; middling to good, 3s. to 3s. 6d.; low yellow Mauritius, 3s. to 3s. 6d.; good white Benares, 3s. 6d. to 3s. 6d.; and tares, 7s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per cwt. Refined goods have given way 6d. Brown lump, 4s. to 4s. 6d.; grocery, 4s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. per cwt. The total clearances, to the 3rd inst. were 5,167,391 cwt., against 5,590,108 ditto in 1852.

Coffee.—Good ordinary native Ceylon has changed hands at 47s. per cwt. Plantation kinds support former terms. In foreign coffee very little is doing.

Rice.—Our market is dull, and prices are about 3d. per cwt. lower.

Provisions.—For all kinds of butter we have to report a dull sale, at a decline in the quotations of from 1s. to 2s. per cwt. The butter market is heavy, and prices continue to decline. Waterford cheese, 5s. to 5s. 6s.; heavy, 5s. to 5s. 6s. per cwt. Prime hams are quite as dear as last week. Most other kinds of provisions are selling on former terms.

Tallow.—The demand is steady. F.Y.C., on the spot, 37s.; and for the spring, 37s. 3d. per cwt. Town tallow, 5s. 6d., net cash.

Oils.—Rape, cod, and southern, are in request, and dearer. Other oils are steady. Turpentine is lower. Spirits, £2 16s. In punch, £2 15s. rough, 14s. per cwt.

Spirits.—The sale for rum is tolerably steady. Proof Loewards, 2s. 6d. to 2s. 6½d.; and East India, 2s. 6d. per gallon. Brandy is firm. Sales of cognac, best brands of 1851, 8s. 6d. to 8s. 8d.; 1850 ditto, 8s. 7d. to 8s. 9d.; older, 8s. 8d. to 8s. 9d. per gallon. British-made spirits, 10s. 6d.

Hay and Straw.—Meadow hay, £2 10s. to £3 10s.; clover ditto, £4 0s. to £6 6s.; and straw, £1 4s. to £2 2s. per load.

Wool.—English qualities are steady, and prices are well supported. Foreign and colonial wools are almost nominal.

Peas.—About an average business is doing in most kinds, at from 5s. to 15s. per ton.

Smithfield.—Beef and veal have sold steadily, on higher terms. In mutton and pork only moderate business has been doing.

Beef, from 3s. 6d. to 4s. 8d.; mutton, 3s. to 5s. 2d.; veal, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.; pork, 2s. 4d. to 4s. 16d. per 8 lbs. to sink the offal.

Acquainted and Leadenhall.—These markets have ruled steady, and prices have been well supported.

Beef, from 2s. 8d. to 4s. 2d.; mutton, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 8d.; veal, 3s. 10d. to 4s. 10d.; pork, 3s. 4d. to 5s. 6d. per 8 lbs. by the carcase.

ROBERT HERBERT.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, DEC. 2.

WAR OFFICE, DEC. 2.

10th Light Dragoons: Cornet G. S. Davies to be Cornet, vice Gandell. 11th: Cornet A. W. Gandell to be Cornet, vice Davies.

4th Foot: J. Howley to be Ensign, vice Hon. A. H. A. Anson. 13th: Surgeon T. D'Arcy, M.D., to be Surgeon, vice Dowse. 22nd: First Lieut. W. Doby to be Lieut., vice J. W. Poole. 30th: Surgeon R. R. Dowse to be Surgeon, vice D'Arcy. 44th: Ensign L. Thorne to be Lieut., vice W. H. J. Clarke to be Major, vice Lempiere; Lieut. J. Breton to be Captain, vice Walter; Ensign W. H. J. Clarke to be Lieutenant, vice Breton; J. P. Rideaux to be Ensign, vice Clarke. 54th: W. M. Firth to be Assistant-Surgeon, vice Moorhead. 56th: Lieut. J. P. Pye to be Captain, vice Hans; Ensign R. H. Harford to be Lieutenant, vice P. Pye; Cadet Ensign T. E. Gordon to be Assistant-Surgeon, vice F. W. Knox to be Captain, vice J. H. Campbell to be Ensign, vice Harford; Lieut. E. S. Powys to be Captain, vice F. Hason; Assistant-Surgeon, vice Lawson; Lieut. E. S. Powys to be Captain, vice F. Hason; Assistant-Surgeon, vice Lawson; Lieut. E. S. Powys to be Captain, vice F. Hason; Assistant-Surgeon, vice Lawson.

22nd: M. De la P. Beresford to be Ensign, vice Smith.

Rifle Brigade: Ensign the Hon. A. H. A. Anson, to be Second Lieut., vice Hale.

HOSPITAL STAFF.—Assist.-Surgeon, T. Moorhead, M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon, vice Knox.

BANKRUPTS.

L. DIESPECKER, Little Moorfields, Glaz., dealer in general fancy articles. J. WILLS, Exeter, builder. E. BLADON and H. COATES, Manchester, stuff merchants. E. COX, Great Queen-street, plate and lathe manufacturer. J. J. HARRIS, Waterloo-road, brewer.

W. BROWN, Portsmouth, wine and spirit merchant. H. WILLIAMS, sen., and J. WILLIAMS, West Smithfield, tailors. J. E. CROCKFORD, Wendover, Buckinghamshire, grocer. W. ANDREW, High-street, Shadwell, baker.

TUESDAY, DEC. 6.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

J. SAYERS, High-street, Wandsworth, Surrey, carpenter and upholsterer.

BANKRUPTS.

A. HARDWICK, High-street, Windsor, Berks, linen draper. E. H. STREET, Exeter, Devon, cabinetmaker. J. BLOOMER and J. PHILIPS, Sheffield, York, joiners' tool manufacturers. W. M'CURTIN and J. S. RILEY, Liverpool, commission merchants. G. G. CHARLES, Liverpool, importer of French and German goods.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

D. M'KENZIE, Dingwall, inn-keeper. K. M'K. THORNBURN, Esq., Edinburgh, writer to the Signet. J. HENDERSON, Hope-street, Glasgow, grain merchant and commission agent. J. GILCHRIST, Milton of Rattray, millspinner, and trader in flax and yarn.

BIRTHS.

BATTYE.—At Clifton, the wife of the Rev. W. W. Battye, of a son.

BOOTHBY.—At the Rectory, Welwyn, Herts, Lady Boothby, of a daughter.

BROUGHAM.—In Grosvenor-square, the wife of W. Brougham, Esq., of a son.

CRANLEY.—The Viscountess Cranley, of a daughter.

DORRIEN.—At Haresfoot, the wife of A. S. Dorrien, Esq., of a daughter.

HORNER.—In Upper Harley-street, the wife of the Rev. J. Horner, of a son.

JESSE.—On the 4th inst., the wife of Captain Jesse, Royal Engineers, of a daughter.

PARKIN.—At the Rectory, South Kelsey, Lincolnshire, the wife of the Rev. L. Parkin, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

BARTON—HILDER.—At the British Embassy, Brussels, T. Barton, Esq., of Bexhill, Sussex, to Maryanne, eldest daughter of J. Hilder, jun., Esq., of Robertsbridge, in the same county.

EDOE—DANSEY.—At Donhead St. Andrew, Wilts, the Rev. C. F. Edge, M.A., to Emma Merrick, fourth daughter of the Rev. W. Dansey, M.A., of Frendbury of Salisbury.

HEWLETT—STEPHEN.—At Tunbridge Wells, the Rev. A. S. Hewlett, eldest son of T. Hewlett, Esq., Harrow-on-the-Hill, to Clara Virginia, eldest daughter of Sir A. Stephen, Chief Justice of Sydney.

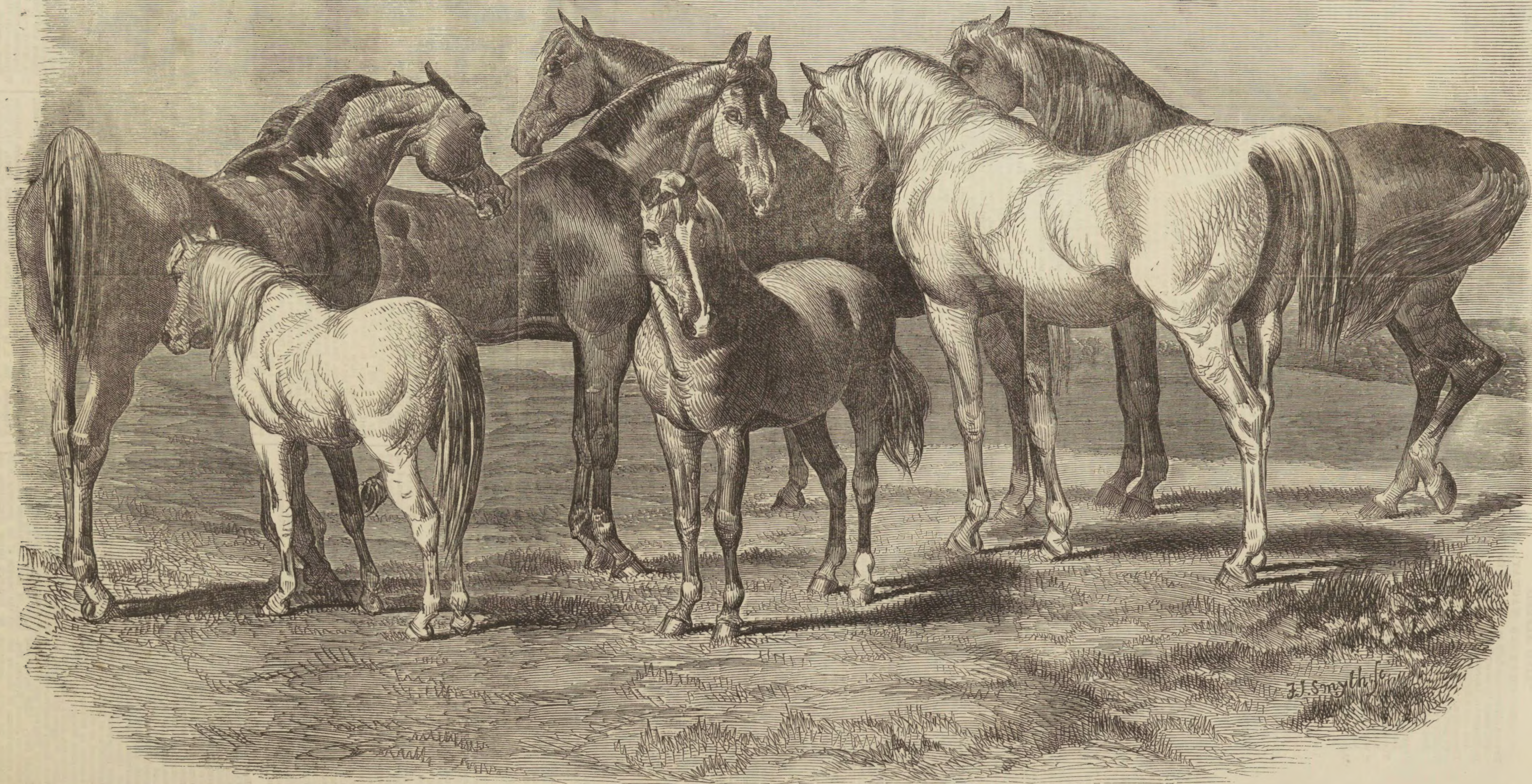
SKIRROW—WOODROFFE.—On the 6th inst., at St. George's, Hanover-square, Walter, eldest son of W. Skirrow, Esq., Q.C., to Emily, widow of the late Skynner G. Woodroffe, Esq., of Hamstal, Staffordshire.

SELWYN—PROTHERO.—At East Teignmouth, the Rev. S. G. Selwyn to Frances, eldest daughter of A. Prothero, Esq., Castle Goodwyn, Gloucestershire.

YARBOROUGH—GRANT.—At Rotheray, Lieut.-Colonel C. C. Yarrowborough, C.B., 91st Regt., to Flora Sophia Emma, only daughter of D. Grant, Esq., of Cambridge-villas, Nottingham.

DEATHS.

CHATTO.—On the 4th inst., at Somers-town, Agnes, second daughter of Mr. Wm. A. Chatto, aged 24.



HER MAJESTY'S RIDING-HORSE.

GREY MEXICAN PONY, PAQUITA.

HER MAJESTY'S BLACK CHARGER.

PRINCE ALBERT'S BAY CHARGER, HYTERION.
PRINCE OF WALES'S PONY, CASPAR.

(GREY ARAB, KHORSEED.

BROWN ARAB, SAID.

FAVOURITES OF THE ROYAL STUD.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)